Nichols

MASSACHUSETTS PLOUGHMAN

DEVOTED TO AGRICULTURE, HORTICULTURE, THE FARM, THE GARDEN,

AND

NEW ENGLAND JOURNAL OF AGRICULTURE.

THE FIRESIDE, RURAL LIFE, LITERATURE, USEFUL ARTS, NEWS, &c.

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Editorial.

WHAT PLANTS TAKE FROM THE SOIL.

Having shown in our article of last week that plants take a very large proportion of phosphate of lime from the soil, it is proper to consider the practicable methods of supplying this most important ingredient of plant growth.

The first and most obvious source of supply is, no doubt, from the application of bones or the constituents of bones in some form. Practical experiment has shown what scientific analysis had already determined, that the application of raw bone, even when finely ground or pulverized, would not effect the object in a satisfactory manner. This does not arise from any want of the elements needed, but from the fact that bone in its natural or raw state is slow of decomposition, and the time required to fit it for plant food is too great. We want quicker returns than we can get from the application of phosphates in a crude form. If we were in no hurry, if we could wait the slow process of natural decomposition and preparation of these crude materials, we might in the end expect to obtain satisfactory results.

The next thing is to ascertain what preparation is required to put the raw or crude phosphate of lime found so largely in bones into a soluble form, into a form in which plants can take and use it for their nourishment. It has been found that the treatment with sulphuric acid, or the vitriol of commerce, effects this object. And hence the preparation of superphosphate by the application of sulphuric acid to the crude phosphate of lime. Superphosphate acts much more quickly than simple phosphate of lime.

The only difficulty in the way of obtaining this is the enormous prices charged, accompanied with a want of confidence in the honesty with which the article is manufactured. An honest article, a good superphosphate, is unquestionably a very valuable manure, and if the farmer could rest assured in all cases that he was getting what he bargains for, the sale of this article would be enormous. The distrust in the minds of the farming community is perfectly natural. The amount of deception and cheating in the article in the last fifteen years has been sufficient to unsettle all confidence in the mode and honesty of the manufacture, and farmers are slow to spend their money for what they know so little about.

Now the true way to overcome this great difficulty is either to manufacture the article ourselves, or to buy it of those in whose integrity we have every reason to feel unlimited confidence.

The difficulty of making a good superphosphate is not so great as many people suppose. The formula is simple and the receipts are easily obtained. But farmers do not as a general thing want the bother of it. They do not like the trouble and risk of handling sulphuric acid. How, then, shall we get over this trouble and still secure all the advantages what would attend the home manufacture? The simplest way is this: Let all the prominent farmers of a town agree among themselves to take so many tons of a thoroughly made article. Let them select some one of their number who is willing to undertake it, to buy the crude materials, the ground bone, or the bone in a partially crushed condition, in which it is comparatively difficult to cheat, the vitriol and any other ingredients that will add to its value according to a receipt which he can obtain of any competent chemist, bring them to his place and mix and manufacture these crude materials himself, and sell to his neighbors at the cost price including his time and labor. If his purchases were well made, the article which he would produce need not cost so much as is charged by the manufacturers at present dealing in the article. But suppose it should cost a little more, it would still be a good operation, because it would carry with it the element of confidence. Every man would know that he was obtaining what he bought and paid for, and that confidence is worth a good deal.

We see no great practical difficulty in the way of carrying out this arrangement. The work of manipulation would come mostly in the winter, a season of comparative leisure on the farm. The article would be easily accessible, the mode in which it was made would be known to all interested, the ingredients would be known, and there would be a reasonable degree of confidence that the price was fair, and that each one got his money's worth.

We do not know that this plan has been tried in any neighborhood in this State, but we submit that in the present state of the market of commercial fertilizers, with the uncertainty and the positive difficulty of getting a thoroughly honest article, it is worth trying. It might be begun on a small scale at first by the clubbing together of a few neighbors, and the plan would very soon commend itself to the confidence of larger neighborhoods, and we should then find less trouble in finding what we know to be good. We hope the suggestion will be adopted somewhere so far as to give it a trial and that the result will be reported for the benefit of the readers of the *Ploughman*.

☞ Troy, N. Y., is said to be the greatest potato market in this country.

THE BRAHMAS.

A correspondent desires us to say something more of the Brahma fowls. We gave a pretty full account of the origin and history of this breed in the *Ploughman* three or four years ago and presented some original information upon them, which we supposed would be appreciated and remembered as throwing some light upon the breed, which may be regarded as the only valuable contribution made to our list of breeds as the result by the "hen fever" which raged with so much virulence fifteen or twenty years ago.

The Brahmas or "Botherum Pootrums" are a New England production in every sense of the word, although they now possess a reputation not only in this country but in England and on the continent. They are recognised in all the authoritative works upon poultry as among the best of fowls of asiastic origin, and take them all in all, we don't know as we could select a breed which united more good qualities.

The Brahmas are, as a rule, very excellent winter layers. Perhaps the present winter may be regarded as an exception, as we know of many flocks that are not laying up to their acknowledged winter capacity. We think however that we can ascribe this to bad fall management. The Brahmas are inclined to run to fat, especially if too highly fed on corn or other too fattening food along in the fall. The difficulty is probably to be traced to that. Perhaps there is no breed that has a greater tendency to the accumulation of internal abdominal fat than the Brahmas, and the result is sometimes to cause them to "go down behind," as it is called, to a greater extent than some other breeds, and this is apt to lead to irregularity in the egg organs.

We must consider the Brahmas as a well fixed breed. They come as true to their well marked characteristics as most other breeds, that is with judicious care in selection and breeding.

When we consider that the profitable time to produce eggs for the market is from November to April, and that no breed surpasses the Brahmas as winter layers, in connection with their other excellent qualities good temper, good size, early maturity as spring chickens, and quiet habits, we should hardly know where to look for their superiors. Perhaps the white Leghorns would produce more eggs taking the year through, and if we did not breed Brahmas, we should probably take to the Leghorns, but in other respects the Brahmas are quite equal.

The comb is not an imperative point in the Brahmas, though we prefer the double or pea comb, which is rather singular in appearance, thick at the base, and like three combs joined in one, the centre one higher than the other, but it must be a low comb rounded at the top, and the indentations must not be deep. The legs should be short and wide apart. This is an important point as it adds greatly to their beauty, and in both cock and hen the outer toes should be shorter than the others and feathered to the point. The beak is yellow.

A cross of the Crevecœur on the Brahma is excellent, the chickens coming forward early and attaining to a large size. The Dorking and the Brahma makes a good cross. Except for the production of chickens for the market merely, we prefer to keep the breeds pure, however, as all the economic objects of poultry may be obtained equally well with some one pure breed, and there is greater satisfaction derived from them.

THE HAMPDEN AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY.

We see by a dispatch to the daily papers that the members of the Hampden Agricultural Society voted not to sell Hampden Park in Springfield, which had been proposed by the Directors.

The Hampden Society is in rather a bad way, so far as any agricultural influence is concerned, and the farmers of the county appear to take little interest in it. Besides that it has involved itself in a debt of $20,000. This matter of debt would not be so very alarming if it were not that it has lost very much of the hold which it ever had upon the support and patronage of the farmers. A live society, full of energy and vitality, can live through and pay off a debt, as well as a live and active individual, and the very existence of a debt will infuse great vigor and enterprise often, where, without the stimulus, there would be little motive to exertion. But to have a terrible debt, and a mental and moral paralysis at the same time, is a melancholy state of things.

How much better it would have been to have adopted the migratory system in the first place, and held Fairs at different prominent points in the county, say at Palmer, Westfield, and occasionally at Blandford, perhaps alternating with Springfield, and made a strong influential society, commanding the confidence and co-operation of the farmers of the whole county, than to have suffered the organization of three or four weak societies, the whole of which do not and can never amount to one strong and powerful organization, which would stir up the whole county and contribute, like the Essex County Society to the improvement of the agriculture of the whole State. And if the Society could sell Hampden Park now, and unite the Hampden East and the Union in one with the old Hampden Society, it might do what it should have done in the first place. In union is strength.

LOOKING FOR A PLACE.

Persons looking about to buy a farm ought to have a distinct and clear idea of what they want, a sort of scale of points, which will greatly aid them in the selection. No place may fully satisfy the requirements of such a schedule, but it will be found useful nevertheless to fix in the mind what is wanted, and approach it as nearly as possible.

We suggest the following points to be looked to, for a residence in the country:

Facility of access.

Water and its character.

Location as to health, etc.

Educational and religious facilities.

Beauty of prospect, exposure as to winds, character of the land itself.

Prospective value of the property.

Facilities for purchasing family supplies.

There are other points, and we only present these as among the more important.

FARMERS' CLUBS.

The following is a list of the Farmers' Clubs in Massachusetts. There ought to be very many more, and we hope the number will increase.

Swansea Farmers' Club, Swansea—Forty members; President, Ezra P. Snow; Secretary, James E. Eastabrooks. Library one hundred and seventy-five volumes. Meetings are held at stated periods through the winter for discussion and reading of essays on different subjects.

Littleton Farmers' Club, Littleton, Mass.—Fifty-five members. Secretary, N. B. Barker. Regular meetings are held for discussion of various subjects.

Pioneer Farmers' Club, Hopkinton—President, J. V. Adams, Secretary, W. P. Perry.

Hudson Farmers' Club, Hudson—Seventy-two members. President, Daniel Stratton, Secretary, W. S. Brigham. Meetings are held fortnightly, "and discussions are had on topics connected with farming."

Princeton Farmers' Club, Princeton—Ninety-two members. President, W. B. Goodrich, Secretary, J. E. Merriam. Has $500,00 in the treasury. The club held its sixth annual fair on the 5th of October, at which nearly $150,00 was awarded in premiums.

Attleborough Farmers' Club, Attleborough—One hundred and thirty-three members.—President, George Price, Secretary, Eliot Hunt. Meetings fortnightly. During the past summer three field meetings were held. On the 14th of October a festival and fair was given which was eminently successful.—On the 10th of November, there was holden under its auspices a market day, which, as an experiment, was unexpectedly a great success. It is proposed to give others, and through the winter a course of public lectures.

Upton Farmers' Club, Upton—Sixty members. President, Wm. Knowlton, Secretary, Whitman Holbrook. Weekly meetings are held for discussions. The annual fair was given on October 7th. Premiums were awarded to the amount of $138,00. A course of lectures is to be delivered through the winter.

North Wrentham Farmers' Club, North Wrentham—Ninety-seven members. Secretary, David Sharp. Monthly meetings are held from May 1st to October 1st, and weekly meetings the rest of the year. The last annual fair was held on October 6th.

Sunderland Farmers' Club, Sunderland—Thirty-four members. President, N. Austin Smith, Secretary, J. M. Smith. Meetings are held semi-monthly for discussions, &c.

West Newbury Farmers' Club, West Newbury—President, Elbridge Merrill, Secretary, Hiram Tozer. Regular meetings are held for discussions, &c.

Shrewsbury Farmers' Club, Shrewsbury—One hundred and fifty members. Secretary, Arunah Harlow. Regular meetings are held for discussions, &c. An exhibition was given in the autumn which was a success.

Whately Farmers' Club, Whately—Forty-nine members. President, Edwin Bardwell, Secretary, J. M. Crafts. Meetings are held for discussions, &c.

Southborough Farmers' Club, Southborough—One hundred and twelve members. Secretary, D. W. C. McMasters. Meetings are held periodically, for discussions, &c.—The annual fair was held October 7th, and was a success.

Amesbury and Salisbury Farmers' Club, Amesbury—Two hundred members. President, W. H. B. Currier, Secretary, Robert Rich. Meetings for discussion have been held at stated times, and a number of experiments have been made.

Wapping Farmers' Club, Deerfield—Thirty-eight members. President, Albert Stebbins, Secretary, G. H. Childs. Weekly meetings are held for debate and readings of essays and delivery of lectures.

Concord Farmers' Club, Concord—Twenty-eight members. President, H. F. French, Secretary, Minot Pratt. Weekly meetings are held for discussions, &c.

Westborough Farmers' Club, Westborough—Five hundred and thirty-nine members.—Secretary, S. Converse. Assets in treasury, $1,006 06. At the annual fair held in October, $194 40 was awarded in premiums. Meetings for lectures and discussions are held at stated times.

Fitchburg Farmers' Club, Fitchburg—One hundred and twenty-one members. Secretary, George S. Houghton. During the past year "Nine meetings were held for discussion," and one "Farmers' Festival." Lectures were also given.

Rutland Farmers' Club, Rutland—Sixty-five members. Secretary, George A. Putnam.

Berlin Farmers' Club, Berlin—Thirty-seven members. President, Charles B. Rathburn, Secretary, P. B. Southwick.—Meetings are held weekly for discussions, &c. A fair was held on September 29th, which was quite successful.

Phillipston Farmers' Club, Phillipston—Fifty-two members. President, J. H. Whitney, Secretary, Jason Goulding. Meetings are held at intervals for discussion of various subjects connected with agriculture.

Lee Farmers' Club, Lee—Twenty-five members. President, Alonzo Bradley, Secretary, T. D. Thatcher. In the library are about three hundred volumes. Meetings are held fortnightly, on Monday evenings.

North Reading Farmers' Club, North Reading—Fifty members. President, C. P. Howard, Secrtary, D. G. Abbott.

Greenfield Farmers' Club, Greenfield—Thirty-five members. Secretary, J. P. Howard.

South Deerfield Farmers' Club, South Deerfield—Twenty-two members. President, H. C. Graves, Secretary, H. Severance. Weekly meetings are held for discussion &c.

Waltham Farmers' Club, Waltham—Secretary, L. P. Frost. A horticultural fair was held by this club on September 22d and 23d, 1869, which was very successful. Regular meetings are held for discussions, &c.

☞ Washington Territory boasts of an immense cranberry marsh, yielding one hundred thousand bushels in a single crop.

CHANGES IN THE STATE BOARD.

Nahum P. Brown, of Florida, is elected to the State Board, by the Hoosac Valley Society, in place of John L. Cole, of Williamstown, whose term expires; A. J. Bucklin, of South Adams, takes the place of Alexander Hyde, of Lee, in the Berkshire Society; Capt. John B. Moore, of the Middlesex Society, and William Birnie of the Hampden Society are re-elected for three years. A few other elections are to take place. The terms of new members begin on the first Wednesday in February.

The number of societies in the State entitled to elect a member of the State Board is thirty.

Farmers' Omnibus.

— A correspondent of the *Rural New Yorker* pronounces fried pork fat as good as anything he ever tried for sore teats on cows.

— The raising of mushrooms is found to be quite lucrative by the fancy gardeners of this city. They sell readily at a dollar a dozen.

— Texas cattle can now be driven into Kansas until March 1st. Already a large army of bovines is in motion, and the plains are alive with long-horned "critters."

— Butter sold in the St. Albans (Vermont) butter market on Tuesday at from twenty-eight to thirty-five cents for fall dairies, and from twenty-eight to thirty cents for winter made.

— Land sells for a song in South Carolina. "Gundelos," on the Pee Dee, comprising 675 acres of prime rice land, with 600 acres of upland, has been sold for $9000. Ten years ago, Governor Allston gave $75,000 for it.

— A machine has been invented and put in operation in California which, it is said, has cut, threshed, cleaned and sacked the wheat from twenty acres in ten hours, with only three men to work it.

— Sheep have nearly doubled in numbers in the United State since 1860, increasing from 23,000,000 to more than 40,000,000, and their wool from 60,000,000 to 115,000,000 pounds.

— It is said six drachms of carbolic acid, dissolved in one gallon of water, is a sure protection of vines against insects. The little striped bug dislikes this preparation, and seeks his dinner elsewhere.

— An Ohio correspondent of the *Country Gentleman* describes a simple contrivance for removing seed from broom corn. It is a board of one and a half feet long, one foot wide, one inch thick, sawed at one end like a comb, the teeth being about six inches long and sharpened at the end. The board is to be nailed to a bench.

— An analysis by Prof. Johnson, of Yale College, of sixteen different kinds of fertilizers, some of which are sold as high as $65 a ton, shows that a very large proportion of them are worthless. One specimen, selling at $23 a ton, was shown to be really worth, as a fertilizer, not more than $2.33.

— Raw, mellow apples are digested in an hour and a half, while boiled cabbage requires five hours. The most healthful dessert that can be placed upon the table is a baked apple.

— The Duke of Sunderland is a large land owner in England, and it is said he proposes dividing his large farms into smaller ones, thus entirely changing his system of letting.

— For all kinds of bunches on horses caused by bruises or injuries of any sort, a correspondent recommends the rubbing such with the tincture of arnica, diluting the latter with water.

— The Barnstable *Patriot* speaks of Mr. James Taylor, of Dennis, eighty-nine years of age, as one of the model farmers of the Cape. Last season he raised handsome crops of corn and potatoes, and made, himself, twelve tons of hay.

— A correspondent of the *New England Farmer* says his method of destroying dock is to cut the roots about an inch or one and a half inches below the surface, using a chisel with a handle long enough to allow the operator to stand erect. The plants are carried from the field when cut.

—Milton Merrifield, of Providence, caught fifty-two rats in one night, by exchanging a barrel of oats that had been often visited by rats for one of water, covering the surface with chaff. The "varmints" unsuspectingly pitched in, and met a watery grave. This is an old but excellent trap where these animals are plenty.

— The *Canada Farmer* in some accounts of the Hereford herd of Mr. F. W. Stone, of Ontario, says there is such a want of demand for bulls in this breed that two of the bull calves in this fine herd have been made steers for beef.

— At a sale of Leicester rams at Kelso, Scotland, one was sold for £109, another for £50. At this sale there were 1751 entries, but this number was less than in any year since 1860, and the average price was also less than that of recent years.

— A correspondent of the Western *Stock Journal* says if the hoofs and fetlocks of a horse are well cleaned and then rubbed with soft soap previous to taking him out in snowy weather, it will prevent balls of snow collecting on the feet.

— The city of New York consumes annually fully 1,500,000 sheep; Boston about 500,000, and other cities in proportion. Were proper attention paid to raising real mutton sheep, the consumption would be largely increased. Most of the mutton put into our markets is of poor quality.

— To break hens of eating their eggs, supply plenty of finely powdered oyster shells, or if these are not handy, provide bones; besides some pork scrap cake daily. Give at the same time an abundance of wheat screenings or other grain, and good, soft, secret nests. Allow no eggs to spoil, use artificial nest eggs, and remove all eggs daily.

— Mr. B. F. Cutter, of Pelham, gives some curious observations in regard to crickets. His theory is that the singing of the 'merry cricket' is governed very largely by the temperature of the weather, and that the change of one degree, even, makes a corresponding change in its music. According to his experiments, when the temperature is at 74 degs. the cricket gives 154 "notes" in a minute; 72 degs. 145; 70 degs. 134; 67 degs. 100; 48 degs. 10.

Correspondence.

A LARGE HOG.

Editor Massachusetts Ploughman:

As I have seen considerable going the rounds about large hogs this fall, I send you the weight of one raised in this town. Reuben Chadbourn, of North Berwick, Me., killed a hog the 13th of this month that weighed 778 pounds. His age was eighteen months, girted six feet seven inches, length six feet six inches; this beats anything that was ever raised in this town. He has also had the largest yield of wheat this season that I ever knew to be raised in this town; he sowed one and a half bushels of wheat last spring on one acre of ground, and raised thirty-six bushels of wheat, which is very handsome. The gentleman referred to is one of the most energetic and successful farmers in this State, very famous for having the best cattle, horses and hogs, as well as the best crops. Yours respectfully,

MOSES H. HUSSEY,

North Berwick, Me., Dec. 27, 1869.

MILKING.

Editor Massachusetts Ploughman:

I should like to call attention through the columns of the *Ploughman*, to a very prevalent custom among some of our farmers who really intend to be neat.

They milk one pail full, and then set it down in the most convenient place, while they fill another or do some other work about the place.

The warm milk soon acquires a strong taste of the barn and cattle, which perhaps the farmer might not notice, but his customers do, and are often disgusted with the peculiar "cowy" flavor of the milk; therefore I say unto ye milkmen, do not let anything from the cows but milk go into the pail, and as soon as that is there, remove it from the barn at once. LEON.

The Stable.

INJURIES TO THE HORSE'S MOUTH.

The horse's mouth is very often injured in the giving of medicines, from carelessness in administering them, and from the tongue being forcibly pulled out, in some cases to such an extent that the muscular substance of the tongue is completely paralysed. A few days ago we were called to a case in this city where the tongue was injured and lacerated to such an extent that it was necessary to remove the injured part. The owner of the horse caught hold of the tongue violently, the horse reared, and he continued to hold on to the tongue, rupturing the *frenum linguæ*, and also the substance of the tongue, causing about three inches of the organ to hang pendulous from the mouth, and the poor animal, in endeavoring to masticate some food, caught hold of the protruding tongue between the incisor teeth, lacerating it fearfully. The only remedy was to remove the lacerated part. We merely mention the above case to show the irreparable injury that may arise from the too common practice of holding on forcibly by the horse's tongue. In many cases, although not torn, it loses its mobility in a great degree; therefore we cannot too strongly recommend persons who find it necessary to give medicines in the form of a ball, to be careful and not pull the tongue violently. Whenever the animal shows signs of fear, or attempts to run back, then let go the hold at once.

The mouth is occasionally injured from some foreign substance becoming lodged in the palate, between the two rows of molars. The substance is often a piece of wood, which the animal takes into his mouth, and it becomes firmly wedged, giving rise to great irritation. When situated towards the posterior part of the palate it is not so readily detected. The horse is unable to masticate his food in a proper manner, and there is an increased discharge of saliva from the mouth. The remedy in such cases consists in the removal of the irritant. In all cases where the mouth shows signs of injury, exhibited by an increased flow of saliva and inability to masticate properly, it should be very carefully examined. We have had an opportunity of seeing two cases this fall, where a piece of wood had been lodged between the upper row of molars for six or seven days, causing acute inflammatory action, and, of course, great loss of flesh.—*Canada Farmer.*

SAVING MANURE.

The quantity of manure that may be saved and manufactured from twenty head of cattle in a year is astonishing to an old style farmer, who believes in the good old stuff, but is too close fisted to hire labor. The writer came into possession of a run down farm last spring, with about forty loads of manure in the two barn yards, as the result of last year's operations. The practice in the neighborhood is to clean the yards in the spring, and let them lie bare until after haying, when a few loads of dirt and seaweed are carted in, which suffices for the year. As soon as the yards were cleared, we began to cart in old buts, stack bottoms, swamp mud, decayed leaves, head lands, and seaweed, adding every week a few loads, and ploughing occasionally to mix the droppings of the cattle with the contents of the yard. All the manure from the horses, oxen, cows, and pigs, was thrown into the yards and mixed with the accumulating mass. By September we had at least two hundred and fifty loads of compost of much better quality than was carted out in the spring, ready to be spread upon the meadows or to be ploughed under for grain, and the best part of the year for making manure is still ahead. In the common practice of leaving the yards bare during the summer, the most valuable part of the manure is lost for want of absorbents, even if the cattle are yarded at night. There is nothing to save the liquid manure, which is worth quite as much as the solid. Most of the ammonia escapes into the atmosphere. But with plenty of good absorbents and the frequent ploughing and harrowing of the yard, nothing is lost. All the refuse material dropped in the yard becomes charged with ammonia, and plant food is manufactured very fast. It tells upon the grass, grain and root crops immediately, and the process of renovation begins. This, of course, cost labor, and the outlay of capital, but it is a kind of expenditure that pays very soon in the increased crops. We must either do this, or worse. It will not do to rely upon commercial fertilizers for ordinary farming. The great bulk of fertilizers must be made at home. Neither will it pay to have lean barnyards, and grow grass at the rate of three-quarters of a ton to the acre, twenty-five bushels of corn, thirty of oats, ten of rye, and fifty of potatoes. The farm runs down, and the farmer's purse grows lean with this kind of management. We want to double and treble these crops, and by saving manure any farmer of ordinary intelligence can do it. —*American Agriculturist.*

☞ A New Hampshire correspondent of the *Country Gentleman* reports that an Alderney cow, belonging to a neighbor, gives twenty quarts of milk per day. Another formerly belonging to this writer "gave upon the average twenty quarts per day through the season."

"CRAWFORD'S LATE PEACH."

We cannot yet make up our mind to give up so delicious a fruit as the peach. We have faith that the time is coming when it will succeed and produce good crops as it once did, and so we say it is worth while to keep trying.

Among the varieties best suited to our climate and markets and to our palates too, as to that matter, is the "Crawford's Late," which as yet can hardly be said to have a rival of the yellow fleshed varieties. Its large size, its beautiful appearance, its unapproachable flavor give it a popularity which it well deserves.

The fruit is large, roundish, with a shallow suture; the skin yellow with dark red cheeks; the flesh deep yellow and red at the stone. It ripens towards the latter part of September, just the time to follow the flood tide of the crop from the South, and hence brings a high price in our markets.

If we were going to set out a peach orchard we should select a large proportion of the "Crawford's Late."

The Dairy.

BUTTER MAKING AT CHEESE FACTORIES.

Dr. N. S. Townsend, in his address delivered before the Ohio Dairymen's Association, at their late meeting, said:

"If factories make only cheese, some of the valuable constituents of the milk will not be saved or utilized. However much you may desire to retain all the butter in the cheese, its complete retention is not possible, and in spite of your efforts, much will run off with the whey, which although not as good as first rate butter made from cream, is yet better than much of the cream butter that comes to market; and if properly made it will gladly be purchased at a somewhat reduced price by families with whom economy is an object. Does any one dispute the possibility of making a fine butter of whey? Let me reply by saying that such have a pleasant and profitable lesson to learn. Of course the best butter may be largely made in factories whenever the price of butter is relatively higher than that of cheese, or whenever half milk or skim milk cheese is in good demand. We do not see why factories cannot, without injury to their reputation, of which they are properly very careful, make large quantities of half milk and skim milk cheese of different form or style from whole milk cheese, and supply the market with an article at somewhat lower price, much to the comfort and convenience of families that regard the highest price cheese as too expensive a luxury. This would enable factories to make a fine article of butter, and perhaps contribute to improve the butter making of the whole region. The manufacture of butter, whether in factories or private dairies, is not so purely a mechanical operation as some imagine, and therefore the purchase of the last patented churn is not all that is required. The time allowed for the preparation of the cream, the temperature for churning, the making, working and salting, all require great skill. And the perfection of that neatness so indispensable to the manufacture of good cheese.

Condensed milk has not yet been considered one of the common products of our dairies or factories; when it shall become such, one of the commonest objections to our factory system will be obviated, which is, that they do not use the milk for cheese making, either at the beginning or towards the close of the milking season. If our factories would learn the method, acquire the right, and obtain the necessary apparatus for desiccating milk, and adopt the practice earlier or later, then cheese making would be profitable, it would probably prove remunerative to the factories, and a great convenience to their patrons. Condensed or desiccated milk, which is the milk as it comes from the cow after the water is evaporated, with the addition of a trifle of carbonate of soda to prevent souring in the manipulation, and a definite quantity of pure loaf sugar, is the best substitute for fresh new milk that a family can have who do not keep and milk their own cows. During the recent struggle with the rebellion this article was largely supplied to hospitals for the use of our sick and wounded soldiers, and many a poor boy, whose cup of coffee was trimmed with it, could not tell that he had not been treated to cream from his own mother's pantry.

In all our large cities, and even in the villages, how much safer and better to feed the babies on milk desiccated to its original consistence, than to feed them on the queer compounds sometimes sold as milk. And even if one could always swear by his milkman, and feel assured that he sold nothing that was not milked from his cows, how much inferior the milk from cows fed on brewery grain or distillery slops, to that of country cows, whose only feed is the fresh and fragrant herbage of upland pastures."

PROTECTING TREES FROM MICE.

The use of the tarred paper (or "felt") employed in laying under the slate of roofs, is said to answer an excellent purpose for protecting trees against the injuries of field mice. This paper, it is well known, may be had of any slaters, is quite cheap, and being passed twice around the tree, protects it perfectly. A foot above the ground is sufficient. It will last years, if properly taken care of while not in use. Sheet iron and sheet tin have been used in the same way. Banking up late in autumn, according to the directions we have given, is undoubtedly the best and cheapest mode when rightly performed, but when omitted till too late, it is well worth while to try the felt.

TO MAKE HENS LAY IN WINTER

Give them a good supply of chopped meat —the refuse from the house or the butcher's shop—provide warm airy quarters, with plenty of range in fine weather, and you will have an abundant supply of eggs. Gravel and lime should also be furnished them along with a liberal allowance of grain, and plenty of water.

Stock Department.

FEEDING ANIMALS.

It has not proved profitable to feed cattle large quantities of grain or meal at a time. A moderate quantity, fed with great regularity, and the comfort of the animals generally attended to, [illegible] and continued improvement, has succeeded best. We have known a number of experiments, giving results similar to the following: A neighbor, who had provided himself with platform scales for this purpose, fed a fine steer first with four quarts of barley meal daily in addition to his fodder, and found by weighing that he gained regularly eighteen pounds a week. But he was urged to "push him," in order to see what could be made of such an animal. He was accordingly fed with eight quarts a day, when the increase immediately became less; and on increasing the meal to twelve quarts a day, he *gained nothing*. Overfeeding had proved an injury. It is important to avoid the error of feeding animals too little for a time, and then attempting to make up the deficiency by overdosing. The best way, and in fact the only way for success, is to keep up a constant increase, year in and year out.

For feeding swine, it is important to grind the corn; for cattle less so, and it will depend much on the distance to mill, cost of conveyance, grinding, etc.

The precise amount gained by steaming food for horses, we do not think has been accurately determined.

As to the quantity of general feed for cattle, they should have about at the rate of two and a half pounds daily for each hundred pounds of their weight—a large animal of course requiring more than a small one. This quantity of course varies with the character of the animal, the condition and quality of the food, care in feeding, etc., but it is about a fair average, when the food is of mixed character or part chaff and part meal. Swine require about three pounds for each hundred pounds of live animal. If our correspondent can induce his employer to procure a pinch-form scale, he will be enabled in a short time to gain much valuable knowledge by its use in feeding.

Rye sown in autumn makes early food for soiling; clover next; then orchard grass, early corn fodder, etc.—*Country Gentleman.*

STRAW FOR STOCK.

With many farmers, the impression prevails that straw has no value as food for animals, and that, therefore, it is far better to be applied to the soil as a fertilizer in the ordinary way, and used for litter, or spread on the manure heap to be trodden down and incorporated with the manure by the stock, as is generally done.

If we take the amount of grain and Indian corn raised in the United States, as by the census of 1860, we shall find, by allowing forty bushels of grain to the ton of straw or corn fodder, that there were about 30,000,000 tons. Now, at least, one-third of this is wasted for every purpose except manure, and vast quantities not even used for that. Suppose we estimate this at one-half the value put upon it by Mr. Mechi, or $5 per ton, and we have the enormous sum of $30,000,000 wasted for want of proper economy in a single year. We believe this estimate much below the real loss.

Straw may be advantageously used as a divisor of food. For instance, where root crops are raised and pulped, and then mixed with finely cut straw, there is no doubt the value of root pulp is greatly increased by the addition of the cut straw, especially if the straw has been steamed or scalded before the admixture. The additional advantage of this method is, that the constituents of the straw are more readily assimilated by the growing crops, than without the assistance of the digestive organs of the animal.

Concentrated food is always benefitted by the admixture of cut straw with it. "Oat meal, corn meal, linseed cake, and other grain, may be mixed with cut straw until the nutritive average of the mass will be equal to that of the best hay or grain." The advantage to the animal is not only in the division, but in the amount of nutritious matter the straw may contain. It may not be much, but it is something, and a proper economy demands that everything that can be should be turned to advantage. Where it is possible, therefore, to feed straw in the form above named, there is no doubt that it will prove more valuable to the farmer than when applied to the soil directly, or spread over the manure heap, and incorporated with the droppings of the cattle.

These facts are worthy of a thorough examination by the farmers of the whole country. Let them study their own interests. Many of them will see where they have thrown away enough in ten years to double their property. Let them educate their sons for their calling. Impress upon their minds the necessity of a thorough knowledge of all the processes of nature connected with the growth of plants, and their uses in sustaining the animal economy. Impress them with a sense of the importance of their occupation, and of its elevation in the scale of human affairs. Teach them that no occupation or profession in life requires more accurate or more thorough knowledge. Teach them that no occupation brings honor to the individual, but the individual to the occupation. Above all, teach them to shut their eyes to nothing, to examine all things, and to select that which is good.—*Stock Journal.*

Horticulture.

VALUE AND CULTURE OF APPLES

We have read with much interest, "A Paper read before the New York State Agricultural Society, at Buffalo, Oct. 1st, 1867," by Hugh T. Brooks. We should be glad to present the whole of it to our readers, but as our space is limited, we make such extracts as we can find room for:

By no earthly process, in my opinion, can so much nutriment be so cheaply extracted from four square rods of ground as by planting an apple tree in the centre, and giving it good cultivation.

Apples need the ground, the whole of it, and all it contains, but "immemorial usage" allows an apple tree no rights that husbandmen are bound to respect; it is haggled and mangled, roots and branches, and the soil exhausted in the production of other crops. Charging the apples with the ground they actually grow upon and appropriate, they give far better returns as food for man or beast than corn, wheat or potatoes.

New York, particularly western New York, has a character at home and abroad for fruit. If a better apple country was ever made, I confess I never heard of it. We occupy the precise position where the tree is hardy and healthy, and the fruit comes nearest perfection.

I know of no ordinary farm crop that at all compares, during a series of years, with apples, if we take into the account the small expense at which they are raised. Should we reduce the yield to one-half barrel to the tree, apples would still be our most profitable crop.

I boldly claim that the average of our orchards could be doubled by good cultivation.

An acre of ground that will produce forty barrels of good fruit, ought to be excused from growing grain. Whatever grain or root crops are grown upon it, detract doubtless more than they are worth from the apple crops. We cannot, without great expense and trouble, return to the soil all the elements which our wheat, corn and potatoes take from it. When I hear of trees standing near a wood pile, in the corner of a fence, near the barn, or the hog pen, or the kitchen door, I am prepared for a big yield. The great majority of our apple trees are either starved or go very hungry.

A free application of barnyard manure is indispensable to the continued growth and [illegible] apple trees. Ashes, lime, plaster, and perhaps other mineral fertilizers, may be used to great advantage. * * It should be remembered that the apple tree is subject to the general laws of vegetable growth. You cannot have large and fair fruit if the soil is poor, hard and dry. The earth should be mellow to secure suitable moisture in hot, dry weather, and to impart needed nourishment. It will not do to secure these ends by deep ploughing, especially since ploughing has been condemned, and should paste up over his room table or somewhere where he can often see it—"Knowledge is Power." The carpenter who can draw his plans, make out his estimates, understand the legal forms necessary in putting up his buildings, can tell what materials are best to use, where they can best be purchased, what is the most economical means of transport, and a hundred other things that arise in buildings, will be the one to grow rich and influential in his business, while the man who can only handle his saw and hammer, must be content to drudge on in grinding poverty. The difference comes almost wholly from the different way in which leisure minutes and hours are passed. Your evenings, young men, will generally decide whether your future is to be one of cheerful prosperity or one of harrowing privation.—*Country Gentleman.*

SHORT RULES IN ECONOMY.

Paint all tools exposed to the weather, and if with a light colored paint, they will not heat, warp, or crack in the sun.

Dip well seasoned shingles in a lime wash, and dry them before laying, and they will last much longer, and not become covered with moss.

In hitching a horse to a common rail or worm fence, always select the inside corner, which will be more secure by its bracing position, and the halter will not become entangled among the projecting ends of the rails, as when hitched on the outside corner. (A better rule is never to tie a horse to a rail fence at all.)

Always tie a halter by first making a single loop, and thrusting the end of the halter through the loop. This is quickly united, and will never come untied of itself.

Dip the ends of nails into grease, and they will drive easily into hard wood, where they would otherwise double and break.

In screwing nuts into any part of machinery in cold weather, be careful not to heat them with the hands, or they will contract after being screwed on tight and become immovable afterwards.

In ploughing or teaming on the road in hot weather, always rest the horses on an eminence, where one minute will be worth two in a warm valley.

In setting out young orchards, always register the varieties immediately in a book, where they may be referred to in a few years, when the trees commence bearing, and the labels are lost, and name forgotten.

In laying a garden for fruits and vegetables, place everything in drills or rows, so that they may be cultivated by a horse, and thus save the expense of hard labor.

When board fences become old and the boards begin to come off, nail upright facing strips upon them against each post, and the boards will be held to their place and the fence last several years longer. Always set a post fence over a ditch, or near a good drainage, and the post will always remain dry and will last many years longer than those standing in wet subsoil.

IMPROVEMENT OF SEED WHEAT.

Hon. George Geddes, in an article on the "Culture of Wheat," in a recent number of the New York *Tribune*, gives the following suggestions on the improvement of wheat seed

The Ploughman.

BOSTON, SATURDAY, JAN. 15, 1870.

PREMIUMS.

To any person sending us two new subscribers with $5.00, cash in advance, we will forward one copy of **Worcester's Comprehensive Dictionary**, New Edition, Revised, 612 pages, the publisher's price of which is $1.90.

To any person sending us seven new subscribers with $17.50, cash in advance, we will forward one copy of **Worcester's celebrated Royal Quarto Dictionary, Illustrated**, 1854 pages, the price of which is $10.00.

For Two New Subscribers.

To any one who will send us two new subscriber with five dollars, we will give any one of the following valuable books, which should be in the hands of every agriculturist.

New Book of Flowers, by Joseph Breck beautifully illustrated, the price of which is $1.75.

Milch Cows and Dairy Farming, by Chas. L. Flint, Secretary Mass. State Board of Agriculture, the retail price of which is $2.50.

Flint's Treatise on Grasses and Forage Plants. $2.50.

Garden Plants of America, and How to Cultivate them, by Peatley Burr, $2.50.

Cultivation of the Grape, by W. C. Strong, $2.50.

The above are all copiously illustrated and elegantly bound.

For seven subscribers and $17.50, sent by any one person, we will give the four books.

For Three New Subscribers,

We will give any one of the following elegant volumes on Horticulture:

Flowers for the Parlor and Garden, elegantly illustrated, and beautifully printed on fine tinted paper, $3.00.

The Book of Roses, illustrated, containing full instructions how to cultivate—and list of all the principal varieties grown in this country, by Francis Parkman, $3.00.

Garden Flowers. A treatise on the culture of Hardy Ornamental Trees, Shrubs, Annuals, Herbaceous and Bedding Plants, by Edward Sprague Rand, Jr. with numerous illustrations, $3.00.

Bulbs: A Treatise on Hardy and Tender Bulbs and Tuvers, by Edward Sprague Rand, Jr. Illustrated, 3.00.

These volumes are all illustrated, printed and bound in the best manner, and both ornamental and useful. To a lady of taste, no present would be more acceptable. We will send the four to any one who will send us five subscribers, and $25.00.

Any person, already a subscriber, who will send us one new subscriber with payment in advance, will receive as premium any one of the following publications for children, for one year:

The Youths' Companion.
The Nursery.
The Student and Schoolmate.
Merry's Museum.

For two new subscribers, with $5.00, cash in advance we will send as premium for one year,

Our Boys and Girls.
The Riverside Magazine.
Our Young Folks.

OUR SUBSCRIPTION LIST.

New subscribers to the *Ploughman* are pouring in upon us about as fast as our clerical force can properly record them. We welcome all into the circle that is so rapidly expanding, and assure them that by such a determined and enthusiastic union of numbers, the one great object of advancing and elevating the agricultural profession will most rapidly be assisted. For ourselves, we cannot but gratefully recognize this expression of the popular judgment on our labors, while we renew our most liberal pledges to them in the past; yet we regard this united movement in support of the *Ploughman* as something above a merely personal expression, and intended as a testimony to the awakened interest felt everywhere in progressive agriculture. Our books are open to all comers, whose names will be most acceptable on their capacious pages. The beginning of the year is just the time to select and subscribe for the popular journal.

THE MILK QUESTION.

Our report in the last *Ploughman* of the discussion at the convention of the Milk Producers' Association, brought before the reader a variety of views, to say nothing of any prejudices. The discussion of so vital a matter must necessarily be sparkling, if not a little personal. There are numerous interests allied closely to it, and the subject itself concerns the health and comfort of the community. The general conclusion reached was, that there is adulteration of milk, that the milk producer needs associated protection, and that the Legislature's aid should be invoked for the prosecution of existing abuses by more stringent laws. The facts brought out at the convention are of prime interest to all who use milk in any form; while the farmer who keeps his herd of cows for an expected profit, is made to understand more clearly how his rights are shuffled away into some one else's hand.

RAILROAD ENERGY.

The Boston, Hartford and Erie Railroad is emerging in triumph from the temporary cloud of complications into which its affairs were plunged, and its stock is stiffening up rapidly under the influence of the new arrangement. Judge Richardson, who has recently resigned the important post of Assistant Secretary of the Treasury of the United States, has been elected President of the road, thereby harmonizing certain obstructive differences in the Board of Directors, while John S. Eldridge, Esq., the former President, becomes a leading director again. J. N. Farwell, Esq., also lends to the Board the benefit of his counsel and energy. Judge Richardson's selection for this position is pronounced one of the most judicious and sagacious movements made of late in railway management. He is thoroughly well known in this community as a sound and able lawyer, of an eminently practical talent, and possessed of both prudence and courage in happy combination. His choice by the Directors has at once made its influence favorably felt.

The Hartford and Erie is the Atlantic section of a continental railway. It unites Boston with the Erie and the Hudson, which connects with the Atlantic and Great Western, and thus through St. Louis becomes one with the Union and Central Pacific Roads,—forming one grand line from the Atlantic to the Pacific. The Hartford and Erie road runs through a busy and thriving population from the seaboard to the Hudson, occupying a chain of cities, towns and villages that produce manufactured wealth in great variety and of vast value. It likewise taps the coal fields of Pennsylvania by its connection with the Erie road at the Hudson, and thus supplies itself with one species of freight for all time, and just the freight that is to be in constant demand in New England. This road, in fact, will furnish the only outlet for Pennsylvania coal in winter eastward, and provide the means of supplying factories, furnaces, and individual consumers with their ever increasing demand. Here are two sources of constant business for this road, and to these is to be added the import freights which will go direct over its tracks from the seaboard to the far western interior.

Gov. Claflin remarks in his last Message, that to the Hartford and Erie Company is due the credit of inaugurating the improvement of the South Boston flats, and that its work will bring a million of dollars to the State Treasury within three years. The filling and occupation of these flats are destined to work a complete revolution in the features and fortunes of Boston. It paid half a million to the State for what it purchased, and has embarked on comprehensive improvements that are truly commensurate with the character and ultimate aims of this road. By the recent changes made in the Board of Directors the corporation gains a very marked accession of business strength. Hon. Oakes Ames is as well posted on railway management and construction as any man need be to make him conspicuously efficient, his leading connection with the Union Pacific being well known. Hon. A. H. Rice is another of the new Directors, than whom no one could be better qualified, or would bring more strength to the management. And there are other gentlemen of equal repute in business and financial circles, who have been brought into the direction of the Hartford and Erie to its positive advantage.

We cannot but express the satisfaction we feel at these recent proofs of a revival of energetic resolution, on the part of a railway corporation, whose final work is to perform such noble service not only for Boston, but for the long extent of populous territory through which it takes its course.

THE NEW FRENCH MINISTRY.

The new ministry, with M. Emile Ollivier at its head, has entered upon its duties. In the composition of the ministry the more liberal tendencies and parties of the day are represented, and it is formed especially to carry out the programme of the new policy of the Emperor in making concessions in favor of greater powers of the legislative body and the liberties of the people. At the reception of the foreign diplomatic body by Count Daru, the new minister of foreign affairs, the Count stated, as the programme of the Ministry, their intention towards all foreign nations, to preserve if possible an honorable peace. In the internal affairs of the nation, they proposed to be guided by a desire for progress in the direction of liberal reform, and at the same time they would present a strenuous resistance, on the one hand, to all attempts at revolution, and on the other, no less energetic opposition to reactionary ideas and measures.

M. Ollivier in addressing the Corps Legislatif for the first time as head of the ministry, declared that the ministers considered it their first duty to communicate with the legislature. A long discourse was not necessary, their interests being well known. The ministers had the confidence of the Sovereign and they asked for that of the Chambers. They hoped that the policy of conciliation would prevail, and that all would aid in the work of establishing a National Government adapted to the requirements of the nation and likely to insure liberty without license. The power of the new administration and their influence over the Emperor is shown by the dismissal at their instance of Baron Haussman, the celebrated Prefect of Paris, against the known wishes of the Emperor, with whom the Baron has always been a favorite. The Emperor seems to be in earnest in his inauguration of a more liberal policy, and great confidence is felt in the new administration.

LONG LIVED MEN.

The tables do not fairly state what men of one special faculty almost invariably attain to length of days. They are the men of letters. Proper taskwork of the literary nature, pursued under right conditions, is a certain means of extending human life. Literary men rarely break down from actual work. it is something entirely foreign to that that undermines them. The reason of this element of longevity in letters manifestly is, that it sustains the mind, and consequently the body, in a state of continual elevation. It keeps the faculties bright and in a state of health. The mind holds up the body, or at least prevents the body in its weariness from dragging both down together. Then, again, it begets a state of tranquil content, dissipating those fogs of fear and allaying those frets of anxiety which wear out so many before their time. If every farmer would begin and accumulate by degrees his solid little library, he would possess in that a very strong guarantee against prematurely wearing out.

SKINNING.

The Report of the Commissioner of Agriculture, while it shows a most encouraging view of the state of the country, still leaves the system of farming followed open to the criticism of being a "skinning" system. We cannot see our best days on the land until we go to hard pan on this whole subject. Science and system are what are required for the successful development of our resources. When we understand this, the victory will have been already won.

EIGHT HOURS.

Think as we may of the proposition to limit a day's labor to eight hours, it will still remain true, and be likely so to remain forever, that the man who distances a worthy rival does so only by the most generous use of hard labor. The question to be decided between them is, which can perform the greatest amount of work. Here is a phase of the Labor Question which no proposal of this sort can hope to reform.

FAILURES IN 1869.

There has been a general idea that the depression of business experienced last year, must have resulted in an unusual number of failures. The actual statistics, as published by the New York Mercantile Agency, show that there was but little difference between 1869 and 1868 in that respect. The number of failures last year was 2,799; in 1868 2,608. The liabilities on the failures in '69 were $75,054,006, against $63,774,000 in '68. The failures in New England were as follows: Maine, 83, liabilities $842,000; New Hampshire, 39, liabilities $717,000; Vermont, 37, liabilities $313,000; Massachusetts, 258, liabilities $8,134,000; Rhode Island, 18, liabilities $849,000; Connecticut, 61, liabilities $1,084,000.

The weight and meaning of these statistics would be more apparent and instructive if, besides the liabilities, we were informed of the amount of assets shown by the failed parties and concerns, or in other words what per cent on a dollar they paid, as compared with former years.

THE LEGISLATURE.—The Senate and House have both considered a plan for shortening the session, resulting in a joint rule to be adopted providing that no new business except that of a public nature should be introduced after the fortieth day of the session. There seems to be a determined effort in all quarters to accomplish this result.

CONGRESS.—The session of this body was resumed on Monday, and a large number of bills were introduced and referred. The Senate and House proceeded at once to debate the bill for the admission of Virginia, which after two days' discussion, was postponed on Tuesday.

GEORGE PEABODY.—The British ship Monarch, with the remains of Mr. Peabody on board, is expected to arrive at Portland about the 20th inst. Suitable preparations will be made to receive them, and the citizens of Peabody, where he is to be buried, are making suitable preparations for the funeral ceremonies.

THE LEWIS ABDUCTION CASE.—This case, which has so much interested the sympathies of this community, was decided last week in New York in favor of the mother. A protracted hearing took place before the New York Court, and the above decision was not made till last Saturday. The decision was rendered principally on the ground that the Supreme Court of Massachusetts had decreed the custody of the child to its mother pending proceedings for divorce, and as both parties were citizens of Massachusetts, and subject to the jurisdiction, that decree was not to be inquired into in the courts of a sister State, but comity required that the aid of the New York Court should be given to carry it into effect. Mrs. Lewis at once returned home with her child.

DISTRESSING CALAMITY AT DETROIT.—A distressing calamity occurred last Sunday night. On one of the roads leading out of the city there stood a small tenement house with a store beneath, occupied by a French Canadian family, consisting of father, mother and eight children. During the absence of the father the house took fire at midnight, and five of the sleeping children were burned in their beds. The mother escaped, bearing with her two of the children, and another was saved by being thrown from a window by a fireman, escaping with only a fracture of its legs. The building was entirely consumed, and the children were utterly unrecognizable, and hardly distinguishable from the ashes among which they were found.

THE GOVERNOR'S MESSAGE.

The message of Governor Claflin read before our Legislature last Saturday is one of the best written and well considered inaugurals given in that place for some years. It is remarkable for its clearness and correctness of style, for its business like exposition of the condition of the various interests of the State, and its sensible suggestions in relation to finances, taxation, and general and special legislation.

The State debt has increased steadily for the last ten years, but the sinking funds provided for its redemption have also increased rapidly. Our credit abroad is very high, and our bonds command higher prices in European markets than any other American securities. The funded debt of the State is $29,737,259,90, the unfunded $1,086,120,12; total $30,823,380,02, showing an increase during the last year of $2,087,509.59. The sinking funds amount to $11,476,351,27, and cash on hand to $1,054,170,51, and adding the Back Bay land funds, $236,922,62, there is a net indebtedness of $18,055,395.56. But of that debt $3,725,250,30 is represented by loans to the Boston and Albany and other railroads, on which they pay interest, so that the net amount of the debt on which the State pays interest is $13,330,145,26. The State loan is mostly on five per cent gold interest. The indebtedness will be increased annually for the next four years by the payment of about one million dollars on account of the Hoosac Tunnel. The message earnestly cautions the Legislature against increasing the liabilities of the State by aiding new enterprises, in the present heavy taxation for State and national purposes.

The ordinary expenses of the State for the ensuing year are estimated at $5,500,000, and the ordinary receipts from all sources other than taxation, at $3,000,000, leaving $2,500,000 to be provided for by taxation, unless a further provision is made for increasing ordinary revenue.

The Hoosac Tunnel is the next subject treated of by the message, and the condition of the work is represented to be such that the State have reason to be satisfied with the course of the contractors, Messrs. W. & F. Shanly. They found when they commenced their work last April, that the machinery was in need of repair, and that, with the storms and freshets of the autumn, has prevented unavoidably the degree of progress stipulated monthly to the contract. They have fulfilled expectation as to the quality of their work, and there is reason to believe that by improved methods of operation they will soon make up the deficiency, and will finish the work before the time stipulated by the contract. The floods of the autumn did great damage to the Troy and Greenfield railroad, now in the hands of lessees, and the lessees insist on the State's bearing a large proportion of the expense of repairs, which is commended to the attention of the Legislature.

The Hartford and Erie railroad have received from the State under act of the last legislature scrip to the amount of $3,392,849, having complied with the condition on which it was to be advanced. The work of finishing the road is going on to the satisfaction of the Governor, and it is expected to be completed and in running order to the Hudson river, during the next season.

The plan of improvement of the large area of flats in Boston Harbor known as the South Boston Flats has been inaugurated during the past year. Sales have been made to the Hartford and Erie road of about forty-four acres for $545,505, and to the Boston and Albany road of fifty acres for $435,000. Sea walls are to be built by the roads, and the work of filling is to be completed in three years. The sales amount to less than one-tenth part of the flats. The improvement is a vast undertaking, and will be of great advantage to the business interests of Boston, and a source of profit to the Commonwealth, and a benefit rather than an injury to the harbor. The work is done under the superintendance of the Harbor Commissioners appointed by the State.

The report of the Commissioner of Savings Banks shows an increase of $17,393,149 39 over the amount deposited the previous year. The whole amount on deposit is now $112,119,016 64, with a reserve in addition of $2,682,591 59. These institutions are becoming still more the favorite places of deposit, not only for persons of small means, but those also seeking investment for very considerable sums. The dividends paid by them from year to year are large, showing that they are managed with skill and integrity. The Governor again recommends an increase of the amount of deposit which may be made by one individual to $5000, and that the law be so changed that the banks may loan money to merchants and others needing it on collateral securities.

Although great advance has been made in the cause of education in the last twenty-five years, the Governor thinks there is still room for improvement. There are in the State 270,000 persons between the ages of five and fifteen years. Of this number 247,000 attend school a part of the year—the average attendance in winter being 200,000—showing a slight increase over former years. The amount expended for instruction is $3,123,886, an increase over last year of $273,181; making an average of $10 85, or an increase of about 95 cents over last year, for each child in the State. No better evidence can be given of the readiness of the people to place our schools on the highest basis, than the steady increase of the grants for their support from year to year.

The excellent condition of the penal institutions of the State is referred to, and the Governor makes some suggestions upon the subject of the classification of prisoners, whereby those committing high crimes, and who are hardened in vice, shall be separated from those who are young and inexperienced. The State Prison supports itself and pays about $80,000 into the treasury.

The gratifying fact is given that under the system adopted by the Board of State Charities, pauperism is steadily decreasing, while those really dependent on the public for support are having more intelligent and tender care bestowed on them. The placing of children coming under the care of the Board in families is warmly commended, as within a few years from 2500 to 3000 of these have found good homes, and the Governor speaks in high terms of commendation of the visiting Agency of the Board. The expense to the State of the various charitable institutions is nearly $600,000. He recommends the appointment of agents speaking foreign languages, to meet the emigrants coming upon our shores and to give them much needed advice and information.

The Governor pays a graceful tribute to the memory of George Peabody, and in that connection also refers to the munificent donation of John Clarke of Northampton, who during his lifetime and by his will at his decease has given in all $250,000 to endow a school for deaf mutes at Northampton.

He finds the militia in a high state of efficiency, consisting of ninety-five companies of infantry, six of calvary, and five batteries of artillery. He recommends a reduction of the force to five thousand at a saving of expense to the State of $30,000. The disabled soldiers of the late war, and their families, and the families of the slain, are again recommended to the liberal care of the State.

On the liquor question, the message recommends such changes in the law as the spirit of the age requires, remarking that all laws, to be of any value, must have at least the assent of the public, if not their earnest support.

The Governor recommends that there be no increase of the sums granted by the State as bounties to agricultural societies. He makes a few judicious remarks on the labor question. He recommends that the political privileges conferred upon the Indians last year be extended to those of the Marshpee tribe and Gay Head.

The remarks on commercial and national affairs are very just, appropriate and patriotic, and the message concludes by urging upon the attention of the legislature the importance of using every effort to shorten the legislative session. He says, as far as possible, let your legislation be such as to keep our children here to enjoy the fruits of their fathers' labor, not so much in the wealth which may descend to them, as in the means of happiness which are open to every one, in the broad and liberal culture which surrounds them, and the incentives which induce to a preparation for that higher life which should be the hope and expectation of us all.

NEW ENGLAND.

At the annual meeting of the New England Historic Genealogical Society, held in Boston last week, the President, Hon. Marshall P. Wilder, delivered the usual address, in which he took occasion, in words of glowing eloquence, to eulogise the character of New England men, New England principles and New England influence in forming the character of the nation, which will find a response in every patriotic heart in the borders of our six New England States. The passage is as follows.

Much has been said of late in regard to a decline of the industrial, commercial and other great interests of New England—that her political position in the community of States must hereafter be of a secondary character. We are not among those who are willing to believe in this decadence of her prosperity or of the influence of her institutions. We believe in the blessings which flow from well directed industry, the supremacy of the laws, and the benign results of civilization, virtue and truth. New England men are too often charged with extolling her importance and merit; but while we would acknowledge the rising greatness of our Western and other States, empires though they may be, still we would be just to ourselves in sustaining her honor, and perpetuating the virtues of her sons. How has she encouraged and fostered every effort for the spread of the gospel—for the diffusion of knowledge—for the extension of human freedom—for the support of constitutional authority—for the progress of internal improvements and the development of national resources! How has she sent her sons as pioneers to colonize by her enterprise, to utilize by her industry, to enrich by her wealth, and to build up by her example new States for the diffusion of the piety, patriotism and principles of her fathers—and so, in the future as in the past, wherever their feet shall be planted, however dense the forest, however distant the shore, there churches, schoolhouses and benevolent institutions shall arise, the blessed harbingers of future good! But whatever rank may be assigned by Providence to New England in the future in the calendar of States, her name will forever be cherished by grateful millions for the good she has already done. The lustre of her renown can never be tarnished. The light of her example can never be darkened. In the language of her great expounder, "The past is at least secure!"

Whenever I reflect on what New England has done for the world, what she has done for Norfolk cause of education, religion, civil policy, and for the amelioration of the ills that flesh is heir to, the blood courses more freely in my veins, and my heart rises in gratitude to the Giver of all good, that he permitted me here to be born—here to live. Here let me die!

Trace for a moment some of the incidents of her history. Look at New England, presenting examples of genius, enterprise and self-reliance unsurpassed in the annals of the world!

Who was it that drew the lightning from the fiery cloud and held it in his hand!

Who was it that laid the mystic wire dry shod, from continent to continent, in the almost fathomless abyss of the mighty deep!

Who was it that taught the electric spark, with tongue of fire and quick as thought, to speak all the languages of the globe!

Who was it that brought the heaven born [illegible] suffering, and to blot from the memory the cruel operations of the surgeon's knife!

Who planted the first free school on this continent, if not the first free school, that free school, that tree of knowledge, whose fruits are freedom of thought, freedom of speech, freedom of worship—that tree whose leaves are literally for the healing of nations!

Whose sign manual appears at the head of the signers of that immortal Declaration of American Independence—who were they that fell where yonder column rises—and who were the volunteers that rushed first to the defence of the Capital in the late fearful crisis!

Who were the men who conceived the idea and laid the plan for the greatest missionary enterprise on our western shores, going forth with the ensign of the Cross in one hand and the flag of our nation in the other, to the distant islands of the sea!

Who were the men on this hemisphere that first stood forth as the almoners of human freedom and equal rights, boldly declaring, with their lives in their hands, like Paul of Mars Hill, that "God made of one blood all the nations of the earth!"

By whose bold adventure, untiring energy and wonderful dispatch was our western continent spanned by the iron tracks of the Pacific road!

And who is he that has been so lately honored with princely burial at Westminster Abbey, among sovereigns and illustrious men, and whose remains, by order of her Majesty the Queen of Great Britain, are now under royal convoy to his native land, in testimonial of his noble benefactions to mankind! Were not these New England men? Were not these—all these beneficent acts and achievements—the result of New England mind, New England culture, New England genius?

It is our duty to treasure up these events and incidents, and to transmit them to future generations. It is these which have elevated our institutions as shining lights, whose beneficent rays have penetrated the darkest recesses of the earth, and whose golden record shall gleam with brighter and brighter effulgence on the historic page.

RELIGIOUS INTELLIGENCE.

The three Unitarian clergymen in Michigan have united with eight Universalists in organizing a Liberal Christian Conference.

The two Methodist bodies in Canada, the Wesleyans and the Methodist Episcopals, are considering the expediency of uniting as one church.

The United Presbyterians in the South are taking steps to license as exhorters some of their laymen, and employ them as workers in holding services and expounding the nature of practical godliness.

The Congregational Churches in California number forty-eight, being a gain of four during the year; number of ministers, forty-nine, a gain of five; number of members 2,071, a gain of 131.

In Nevada Territory the church membership is less than one-fiftieth of the entire population. The Congregationalists and Baptists have as yet no organization. The Episcopalians, Methodists and Presbyterians have each four churches.

The first Synod of the Reformed Church of North America met in Philadelphia one hundred and twenty-three years ago, composed of thirty-one ministers and elders, representing a few thousand souls. Now the Synod has 200 delegates, representing 550 ministers, 1,200 congregations and 250,000 baptized souls.

A Bible society has lately been founded in Russia, which has already distributed 50,000 copies of the New Testament in the Russian language.

On the 6th of December, the Crown Prince of Prussia laid the foundation stone of the new German Protestant church at Cairo. The King of Prussia has subscribed 20,000f. to the building.

Three years ago the Southern Methodists had but one church in Baltimore. Now they have nine. Reports also show their progress further northward, as in Iowa, Illinois and Indiana.

The Universalists in the United States have 792 societies and 588 ministers, connected with eighty-two associations. Their denominational schools—consisting of theological seminaries and five colleges, two theological seminaries and five academies—numbered last year 1,400 students. These institutions have an aggregate endowment of $2,000,000.

The journal of the Episcopal Convention shows seventy-nine churches and chapels in New York city and Harlem. The largest contributions reported are from Trinity church, with its three chapels, $54,254; Grace church, with chapel, $49,115; St. George and two chapels, $35,575; Incarnation, $29,451; Calvary, $28,869. Trinity, with its chapels, has 2,140 communicants; St. George, 1,500; Grace, 802. There are in the whole diocese 196 churches and chapels, 290 clergymen and 20,867 Sunday Scholars.

THE VERMONT DAIRYMEN'S ASSOCIATION.

We have received from O. S. Bliss, Esq., the following programme of the order of exercises at the meeting of the Vermont Dairymen's Association to be held at St. Albans, Vt., Jan. 19th, 20th, and 21st, 1870.

Wednesday, January 19th, 2½ o'clock. Opening Address by the President; 3 o'clock, Address on the Objects and Method of Investigation necessary to the full and profitable development of the Dairy Interests of Vermont, by Dr. Middleton Goldsmith, of Rutland; 7 o'clock, Address on Dairy Farms and Dairy Management, by Hon. X. A. Willard, Dairy Editor of the *Rural New Yorker*, formerly of the *Utica Herald*. Mr. Willard will discuss at length, the Factory or Associated System of Dairy Management.

Thursday, January 20th, 10 o'clock. Discussions on various topics relating to the management of Farm Dairies, such as deodorizing and cooling milk; Cheese making; the Construction and Ventilation of Milk Rooms; the Manner of setting Milk for Cream; the time when Milk should be skimmed; should Cream be permitted to sour before being churned; on Salting and Packing Butter; on Salt; on Butter Packages and Cheese Packages; and on any other subject pertaining to the general objects of the Association. 2 o'clock, a Report and Discussion on Marketing Dairy Products, to be opened by Hon. H. E. Bishop, of St. Albans; 7 o'clock, Hon. Henry Lane, of Cornwall, will read a paper on the Cultivation of the Sugar Beet for Stock Feeding, to be followed by Discussions.

Friday, January 21st, 10 o'clock. Address on Stock Breeding and Stock Feeding, by Hon. George B. Loring, President of the New England Agricultural Society, and President of the Massachusetts and New Hampshire Milk Producers' Association, to be followed by discussions; 2 o'clock, unfinished business and discussions. It is expected that Hon. Horatio Seymour, President of the American Dairymen's Association, or Hon. Thomas G. Alvord, Vice President, will be present and address the meeting at some time during the session.

☞ Arrangements have been made with different railroads to supply free return tickets to those attending the Convention.

LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEES.

SENATE.

Standing Committees.

Judiciary—Messrs. Holden of Essex, King of the Island, Coburn of Norfolk, Warren of Middlesex, and Fox of Suffolk.

Probate and Chancery—Messrs Morton of Suffolk, Johnson of Worcester, and Ladd of Hampden.

Executive—Messrs. Clark of Middlesex, and Monroe of Norfolk.

Expenditure—Messrs. Rice of Worcester, Crosby of Hampshire and Hawes of Bristol.

Federal Relations—Messrs. Hobart of Norfolk and Giles of Suffolk.

Fisheries—Messrs. Atwood of the Cape and Sprout of Plymouth.

Harbors—Messrs King of the Island, Collins of Suffolk, and Thompson of Middlesex.

Library—Messrs. Tenny of Essex, Clark of Middlesex and Johnson of Worcester.

Manufactures—Messrs. Clark of Franklin and Fisher of Middlesex.

Mercantile Affairs—Messrs. Pollard of Middlesex and Greeley of Worcester.

Insurance—Messrs. Rice of Worcester and Rhodes of Bristol.

Military Affairs—Messrs. Fox of Suffolk and Hawes of Bristol.

Parishes and Religious Societies—Messrs. Bullard of Middlesex and Buttrick of Worcester.

Prisons—Messrs. Bowse of Middlesex and Hathaway of Bristol.

Public Charitable Institutions—Messrs. Monroe of Norfolk and Bowse of Middlesex.

Public Lands—Messrs. Wheelock of Worcester and Pote of Suffolk.

Railways—Messrs. Hobart of Norfolk, Morton of Cambridge, and Kittredge of Berkshire.

House Rats—Messrs. Ladd of Hampden, Willcomb of Essex and Leland of Norfolk.

Roads and bridges—Messrs. Benjamin of Berkshire and Bennese of Hampden.

State House—Messrs. Giles of Suffolk and Atwood of the Cape.

Towns—Messrs. Sprout of Plymouth and Benjamin of Berkshire.

House Funnel—Messrs. Buttrick of Worcester, Pierce of Middlesex and Clark of Franklin.

Joint Special Committees.

Intoxicating Liquors—Messrs. Morton of Suffolk, Clark of Middlesex, Ladd of Hampden, Wheelock of Worcester and Colburn of Norfolk.

Labor Question—Messrs. Holden of Essex, Leland of Norfolk, Kellogg of Essex and Rhodes of Bristol.

HOUSE.

Standing Committees.

Judiciary—Messrs. Train of Boston, Sweetser of Lowell, Stockbridge of Amherst, Harris of Springfield, French of New Bedford, Goodrich of Newton, Cogswell of Salem and Merrill of Boston.

Labor Question—Messrs. Powers of Springfield Buzzell of Boston, Goodwin of Haverhill, Hill of Billerica, Lewis of N. Bridgewater, James of Boston, Fiske of Upton and Wright of Attleboro.

Joint Standing Committees.

Agriculture—Messrs. Bates of Plymouth, and Howe of Essex.

Banks and Banking—Messrs. Kittredge of Berkshire, and Fletcher of Middlesex.

Claims—Messrs. Crosby of Hampshire, and Tenny of Essex.

Elections—Messrs. Clark of Middlesex, and Monroe of Norfolk.

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MASSACHUSETTS PLOUGHMAN AND NEW ENGLAND JOURNAL OF AGRICULTURE.....BOSTON, SATURDAY, JANUARY 15, 1870.

READ AND RUN.

—An immense immigration is pouring into Texas, and the country will hear from it in the shape of cattle and cotton.

—The auction sale of the vast collection of the Thompson pictures is to commence in New York on the 7th of next month. The collection is valued at half a million dollars and numbers some two thousand pictures.

—There is still an earnest wish prevalent that Congress will authorize pension moneys to be sent direct and without cost to those who are entitled to them, by the agency of postal money orders.

—It is becoming the fashion to commit suicide in company, as it long has been in France. Misery still loves company.

—A minister plenipotentiary will probably be sent over from England to attempt the adjustment of the Alabama Claims, and the Duke of Argyle is said to be the particular individual selected for that important office.

—Boston owes a snug little matter of twenty-three millions, but pays her interest promptly and keeps alive a satisfactory sinking fund.

—Young Lopez, the son of ex-President of Paraguay, comes to Washington to assure our people that his father is nowhere near used up yet, and that he may be expected in ate time to come out into the light where his enemies least expected him.

—Gov. Baker of Indiana, promises to bring to the notice of the legislature of that State the existing condition of the marriage laws, and to urge the need of their reformation.

—Judge Wm. A. Richardson, formerly assistant Secretary of the U. S. Treasury, has been elected President of the Hartford and Erie Railroad Company, and the road will, if possible, be completed to the Hudson by next autumn.

—The noxious ingredients that are wickedly put into modern candles are as wilful a poisoning of the people as if the same articles were deliberately put into their bread and meat.

—A Government telegraph system is becoming widely called for.

—Gens. Banks and Burnside have arrived home from Europe together.

—The Southern freedmen are more generally settling down to contented labor, and another year will give a still better account of their industry.

—A diplomatic circle is proposed by the French Minister of Foreign Affairs, all the foreign representatives to come together and discuss their plans and aims without formality. It would be more in keeping with this business age.

—The movement outside of Congress for the abolition of the franking privilege is becoming formidable.

—Half a million dollars will probably be appropriated very soon by Congress for going on with the construction of the Boston post office.

—Twenty-nine English peers have died within the last year.

—"Light" is going to be the name of a new London journal, which we trust the proprietors will in time be able to prefix with a De, instead of a B.

—The Governor of Colorado wants the right of suffrage given to women.

—A new railroad by a shorter route is talked of between New York and Philadelphia.

—The Cuban insurgents, as a last resort, are moving for the burning of the cane fields.

—Fifty streets in the standing grievance in New York.

—The "championship" spirit runs through everything, from oyster swallowing to base ball. The wave of annexation has reached the Sandwich Islands. We shall have continent and ocean in due time.

—San Francisco has grown fast enough to have to-day a population of one hundred and seventy thousand.

—Senator Cameron is the oldest member of the United States Senate, and is seventy-one years of age. Who says a man's best days are over after he sees fifty?

—Fifth Avenue was paved with some kind of a mixture not very long ago, and now they are spooning the composition up again, in a paddling state.

—There is a nitre depot, belonging to the Government near by in Maiden, and over three thousand tons of that precious stuff are stored in it for an emergency.

—The present season in Washington is expected to be the most brilliant of any in the last ten years.

—Capt. C. Whiting, of Manomet Point, has been appointed by the Governor a Commissioner of Wrecks and Wrecked goods for Plymouth County.

—All signs point to a short session of our Legislature. It is the universal wish.

—The sheriff of Cook County, Ill., in which county is Chicago, has absconded with the public money, but leaving an office worth twenty thousand a year.

—Gen. Sherman gives very popular receptions in Washington, after the familiarly domestic fashion.

—Spain expects to stamp out insurrection in Cuba by settling permanently on the island the soldiers she has sent over. If the Cubans can do it, they will see that all Spaniards are permanently settled there.

—The blacks of the upper tier of Southern States are very largely emigrating into the Gulf States.

—New York is charged with permitting travel to get very much intoxicated on New Years' Day.

—There is a rumor of a Presidential intention next summer to make a trip to Europe.

—Egypt and Turkey are enjoying very critical relations.

—The late excitement among telegraphic operators points to a reorganization of our general news system and cheaper rates for telegraphic intelligence in the end.

—We hear of sharp cold weather in the northwest, with mercury clear down out of sight and hearing.

—Let no young man think it makes so much difference where he locates as what he does after locating.

—The Lewis kidnapping case was finally settled by the delivery of the child in question to the mother who came home to Boston with her.

—The new American Minister to China sailed from this port for his destination last Saturday.

—Interest in chess as a game is dying out.

—The base ball players have an organ, published in Boston.

—There is an effort making to secure a new racing track in Brighton.

—The State of Massachusetts owes a little over thirty millions, and is perfectly good for the whole of it.

—We believe it is admitted that no gubernatorial message has been sent into our Legislature in many years, that was so distinct, business like, intelligible, and generally satisfactory.

—The new French Ministry are failing to work as if they meant business.

—The British Government has fairly set out on a career of rigid economy.

—Boston is accused of getting away a large share of western freight from New York, as if the latter city had a clear right to the whole.

—The Hartford and Erie railroad Company are doing much for the city and State, by their improvement of the South Boston flats.

—Don't slap a man in the back to show others that you are acquainted with him; nor address another by his surname, until you are satisfied that it is agreeable to him. Courtesy is essential even in popularity.

—The Cubans assert in round phrase that the war on their part is not yet ended, by a long chalk.

—The face of the Prince Imperial is to be stamped on some of the French coin.

—A St. Louis young woman has taken a street paving contract of large value.

—Superstitious people in Ohio bring up old coffin nails for charms.

—A good way to begin a new year is by making a deposit in some savings bank.

—A humorous Nevada merchant advertises his readiness to take, in exchange for his stock, "old rags of a greenish hue, embellished with Chase's photographs."

—Italy is financially on the verge of bankruptcy.

—It is expected that the French Legislative body will make strong opposition to paying the expenses of the recent trip of Eugenie to Egypt.

—The Congressional Committee on the appropriations for our new Post Office have been in town during the past week. Collector Russell took them down to the School Ship on Sunday last.

—The fine new building of the Young Men's Christian Association of New York has been taken full possession of, and much good is expected to be wrought by its agency.

—An annexation expedition has been starting off from New York for the Red River country, during the week.

RESIGNATION OF DR. CHOATE. The New Bedford *Mercury* announces that Dr. George C. S. Choate, who for the past sixteen years has been the Superintendent of the State Lunatic Hospital, at Taunton, has resigned that position, his resignation to take effect early in the coming spring. It is his intention to remove to New York city, and open an office as a consulting physician and as an expert in mental diseases.

THE LATE SECRETARY STANTON'S RELIGIOUS CHARACTER.

Now that Mr. Stanton is dead, many people are unsealing their lips with incidents of his life, which his desires and wishes have heretofore kept concealed. Few people who met him in ordinary business knew to what extent he was literally a God fearing man and to what an extent he believed in prayer. Rev. Dr. Gray, late pastor of the E Street Baptist Church of Washington city, related in the course of a sermon delivered at Washington on Sunday the following interesting personal incident: About two years ago, while Mr. Stanton was holding possession of the War Office and a voluntary prisoner on the noble stand he had taken during the war, the services he had rendered his country, and also the stand he had taken at that time, Mr. Stanton said: "Gentlemen, I believe in God and I believe in prayer, although I am not a professor of religion in the common acceptance of the term; and when, during the war, I received discouraging despatches from the army, I would lock the door, spread out the despatches and kneel down and pray to God to save my country, and then go and talk with Mr. Lincoln." Mr. Fulton then said: "Mr. Stanton, this is an interesting incident in the history of the war, am I at liberty to repeat it?" He replied: "Not now. Were this statement to be made public under existing circumstances, my enemies would regard it as a bid for the sympathy and support of the praying portion of the country. Wait till I am dead, then you may tell it." **Just as they were about to leave,** Mr. Stanton rose and locked the door, and said: "Gentlemen, I would like to have you spend a few moments in prayer." Mr. Fulton in his brusque way, said: "Gray, pray." Mr. Gray did so, and then Mr. Fulton prayed most earnestly for him. During prayer Mr. Stanton wept like a child.—*Baltimore American.*

NORMAL SCHOOL AT SALEM.—The catalogue for the winter term of the State Normal School at Salem, gives the numbers of the four classes at 26; 35, 29, and 74, making in all 164, in attendance at this term. A large proportion of the pupils are from Essex County. Tuition is free to those belonging in Massachusetts who declare their intention of teaching in the public schools of the State.

New Advertisements.

Fancy Pigeons.

A FINE collection containing forty varieties will be sold cheap. Also, one pair of BRONZE TURKEYS. Address P. O. Box 1156, Boston, or call at Mr. Tuttle's, Savin Hill, Dorchester.

To Farmers.

A RESPONSIBLE gentleman wishes to hire permanently, part of a house on or near a farm, and for a family, will pay a liberal rent, besides being a source of income in numerous ways.

The work will be paid to any one procuring the offer of a boarder, and farmers or others having more satisfactory place, will do well to address Box 1366 Post Office, Boston.

Wanted.

THE advertiser wants to hire or take a farm on shares somewhere near a market place, where hotbeds can be worked to advantage and early vegetables will sell. Address FARMER,
Newton Corner, Mass.
jan15-3t*

THE Three Standard CHURCH MUSIC BOOKS.

THE TEMPLE CHOIR. By T. F. Seward, Dr. Lowell Mason, and Wm. B. Bradbury. Containing an unusual variety in its contents for the use of Choirs. The Singing School Department is unexcelled, being very clear in its progression, and especially attractive in the selections.

THE KEY NOTE, by Wm. B. Bradbury. One of the most of this celebrated author's works. Attractive and complete in all its departments.

THE JUBILEE, Bradbury's best book of Church Music. Over 200,000 have already been sold.

Price of single copies of the above, $1.50 each. $13.50 per dozen. Specimen Copies sent postage paid, on receipt of price. OLIVER DITSON & CO., 277 Washington st., Boston, and C. H. Ditson, New York. j15

LAST CALL. 7000 subscribers in one month. Now or Never. You have still kept PUTTING OFF. We have only 3000 January numbers left. You secure all the numbers of the "Star Spangled Banner" for 1870 if you subscribe AT ONCE. DO NOT DELAY. For only 75 cents you get the "Banner," a paper of the largest size, containing 11 by 15 square feet of news, stories engraving, &c., for a whole year. One specimen subscribe weekly. You can see for all the numbers for 1870 if you SPEAK QUICK. Recollect we will refund your money if you are not delighted. Will you try it? It will save you Monday. 48 columns of splendid reading. An illustrated, 8 page, Ledger size paper a whole year and superb steel plate all for only 75 cents. Now is the LAST CHANCE. Specimen 6 cents. Send 75 cents, and your name in full.

"STAR SPANGLED BANNER,"
Hinsdale, N. H.
jan15-1t

Commonwealth of Massachusetts

Norfolk, ss. Probate Court.

To the next of kin, creditors, and all persons interested in the Estate of IRA F. TOWER, late of Stoughton, in said County, deceased, intestate.

WHEREAS, a petition has been made to said Court to grant a letter of administration on the state of said deceased, to George Talbot, of Stoughton, he being the executor named in the will:

You are hereby cited to appear at a Probate Court to be holden at Dedham, in said County of Norfolk, on the first day of February next, at nine o'clock in the forenoon, to show cause, if any you have, against granting the same.

And said George Talbot is hereby directed to give notice thereof, by publishing this citation once a week, for three successive weeks in the newspaper called the Massachusetts Ploughman, printed at Boston, the last publication to be one day at least before said Court.

Witness, CHARLES WHITE, Esquire, Judge of said Court, this sixth day of January, in the year one thousand eight hundred and seventy.

J. H. COBB, Register.
jan15-3t*

Old Colony and Newport Railway.

TRAINS LEAVE BOSTON FOR

New York at 4.30 and 5.30 p. m.: New Bedford and Cape Cod, 8.00 a. m., 4 p. m. Crescent Avenue, 9.30 a. m., 1.00, 4.10, 6.15, 9.30* p. m. Savin Hill, 7.45, 9.30, 11.00 a. m., 1, 2, 3, 4.10, 5.45, 6.15, 6.30, 9.30* p. m. Harrison Square, 7.45, 8.30, 9, 30, 11.00 a. m., 12 m., 1, 2, 3, 4.10, 4.45, 5.40, 6.15, 6.30, 9.30* p. m. Neponset, 7.45, 8.30, 9, 11.00 a. m., 12 m., 1, 2, 3, 3.30, 4.10, 4.45, 5.40, 6.15, 6.30, 9.30* p. m. Quincy, 7.45, 8.30, 9, 11.00 a. m., 12 m., 1, 2, 3, 3.30, 4.10, 4.45, 5.40, 6.15, 6.30, 9.30* p. m. Atlantic, 7.45 a. m., 2, 3.30, 4.10, 6.15, 6.30, 9.30* p. m. Braintree, 7.45, 9.00 a. m., 2, 4.10, 6.15, 6.30, 9.30* p. m. Weymouth, 7.45, 9.00 a. m., 2, 4.10, 6.15, 6.30, 9.30* p. m. Quincy, 7.45, 9.00 a. m., 2, 3.30, 4.10, 4.45, 5.40, 6.30, 9.30* p. m. Randolph, 8.00 a. m., 2, 3.30, 4.10, 4.45, 5.40, 6.30, 9.30* p. m. Stoughton, 8.15 a. m., 2, 3.30, 4.10, 4.45, 5.40, 6.30, 9.30* p. m. North Easton, 8.30 a. m., 12 m., 4.30 p. m. Mansfield, 8.45 a. m., 12 m., 4.30 p. m. Taunton, 9.00 a. m., 12 m., 4.30 p. m. Taunton Junction, 8.30 a. m., 12 m., 4.30 p. m. Weir Junction, 8.30 a. m., 12 m., 4.30, 5.30 p. m. Weir, 8.30 a. m., 12 m., 4.30 p. m. Somerset, 8.30 a. m., 12 m., 4.30 p. m. Somerset, 8.30 a. m., 12 m., 4.30 p. m. Fall River, 8.45 a. m., 12 m., 4.30 p. m. Fall River (via Taunt.), 8.30 a. m., 12 m., 4.30 p. m. Bristol Ferry, 8.30 a. m., 12 m., 4.30 p. m. Portsmouth, 8.45 a. m., 12 m., 4.30 p. m. Newport, 8.30 a. m., 12 m., 4.30 p. m. Tiverton, 8.30 a. m., 12 m., 4.30 p. m. Tiverton, 8.30 a. m., 12 m., 4.30 p. m. Fall River, 8.45 a. m., 12 m., 4.30 p. m. Fall River (via Taunt.), 8.30 a. m., 12 m., 4.30 p. m. Bristol Ferry, 8.30 a. m., 12 m., 4.30 p. m. Portsmouth, 8.45 a. m., 12 m., 4.30 p. m. Newport, 8.30 a. m., 12 m., 4.30 p. m. Tiverton, 8.30 a. m., 12 m., 4.30 p. m. Tiverton, 8.30 a. m., 12 m., 4.30 p. m. Fall River, 8.45 a. m., 12 m., 4.30 p. m. Fall River (via Taunt.), 8.30 a. m., 12 m., 4.30 p. m. Somerset, 8.30 a. m., 12 m., 4.30 p. m. Somerset, 8.30 a. m., 12 m., 4.30 p. m. Weir, 8.30 a. m., 12 m., 4.30 p. m. Weir Junction, 8.30 a. m., 12 m., 4.30, 5.30 p. m. Taunton Junction, 8.30 a. m., 12 m., 4.30 p. m. Taunton, 9.00 a. m., 12 m., 4.30 p. m. Mansfield, 8.45 a. m., 12 m., 4.30 p. m. North Easton, 8.30 a. m., 12 m., 4.30 p. m. Stoughton, 8.15 a. m., 2, 3.30, 4.10, 4.45, 5.40, 6.30, 9.30* p. m. Randolph, 8.00 a. m., 2, 3.30, 4.10, 4.45, 5.40, 6.30, 9.30* p. m. Quincy Adams, 7.45, 9.00 a. m., 2, 3.30, 4.10, 4.45, 5.40, 6.30, 9.30* p. m. Braintree, 7.45, 9.00 a. m., 2, 4.10, 6.15, 6.30, 9.30* p. m. Weymouth, 7.45, 9.00 a. m., 2, 4.10, 6.15, 6.30, 9.30* p. m. Atlantic, 7.45 a. m., 2, 3.30, 4.10, 6.15, 6.30, 9.30* p. m. Quincy, 7.45, 8.30, 9, 11.00 a. m., 12 m., 1, 2, 3, 3.30, 4.10, 4.45, 5.40, 6.15, 6.30, 9.30* p. m. Neponset, 7.45, 8.30, 9, 11.00 a. m., 12 m., 1, 2, 3, 3.30, 4.10, 4.45, 5.40, 6.15, 6.30, 9.30* p. m. Harrison Square, 7.45, 8.30, 9, 11.00 a. m., 12 m., 1, 2, 3, 4.10, 5.45, 6.15, 6.30, 9.30* p. m. Savin Hill, 6.32, 7.32, 7.48, 8.37, 9.34, 9.44, 10.41, 11.41 a. m., 12 m., 1.41, 2.41, 3.26, 4.16, 5.04, 5.41 p. m. Crescent Av., 7.34, 9.30, 10.49 a. m., 2.26, 5.40, 6.49, 9.46, 10.37 a. m., 1.56, 2.17, 8.28, 5.37, 6.47, 8.37 p. m. Boston, 7.45, 8.30, 9.30, 10.49 a. m., 12.40, 4.15, 5.50, 7.30† p. m., Cohasset, 6.20, 7, 8.10 a. m., 12.40, 4.15, 5.50, 7.30† p. m. Nantasket, 6.25, 7.05, 8.15 a. m., 12.45, 4.20, 5.55, 7.35† p. m. O. C. House, 6.26, 7.07, 8.18 a. m., 12.50, 4.23, 5.58 p. m. Hingham, 6.32, 7.15, 8.23 a. m., 12.55, 4.30, 6.04 p. m. Hingham, 6.36, 7.18, 8.27 a. m., 4.35, 6.04 p. m. Weymouth, 6.41, 7.23, 8.32 a. m., 1.10, 4.40, 6.08 p. m. Weymouth, 6.46, 7.28, 8.36 a. m., 1.15, 4.45, 6.12 p. m. Braintree, 6.50, 7.33, 8.41 a. m., 1.20, 4.49, 6.16 p. m. Braintree, 6.54, 7.37, 8.45 a. m., 1.27, 4.52, 6.19 p. m. Mattapan, 6.15, 7.05, 8.10, 10.20 a. m., 2 5.20 p. m., 9.03, 5.23 p. m. Granite Bridge, 6.21, 7.11, 8.18, 10.26 a. m., 2.06, 5.26 p. m.

* Saturdays at 10, Tuesdays and Fridays at 11.15 p. m.
‡ On arrival of the boat from New York.
† Tuesdays and Fridays one hour later.

W. H. BULLOCK,
Superintendent.
jan15

New Advertisements.

Please Read the Following TESTIMONIALS IN FAVOR OF ELASTIC SPONGE COODS.

From His Honor the Mayor.

BOSTON, Oct. 1, 1869.

Mr. C. L. Fowle—Dear Sir: As far as my judgment goes, and it is founded on a fair trial, your Patent Elastic Sponge Mattress is equal in point of comfort to any mattress I have ever used. Among its chief excellences are softness, elasticity, absence of unpleasant smells from decayed animal substances, and in general neatness and convenience. Respectfully yours,

NATH'L B. SHURTLEFF.

From Col. Charles G. Greene.

BOSTON, Sept. 24, 1869.

Mr. Charles L. Fowle—Dear Sir: Having used your Patent Elastic Sponge Mattress, Pillows and Cushions in my house for several months, I am happy to say that they have proved in all respects equal to your representations, and that I much prefer them to any article of the kind I have ever purchased. For durability, elasticity, cleanliness, and retention of shape, they are not surpassed. Very respectfully, your ob't serv't,

CHAS. G. GREENE.

From Superintendent of City Hospital.

CITY HOSPITAL, May 22, 1869.

Mr. Chas. L. Fowle, 121 *Summer Street*—Dear Sir: I have had in constant use in one of the wards in this institution for the last six months one of your Elastic Sponge Mattresses. It has many qualities which make it far preferable in my opinion to curled hair. We have a number of them in use, but the one I refer to has been put to the hardest test possible, and I find it as good to-day as the day it was introduced. It retains its elasticity remarkably, which quality adapts them especially for the use of institutions of this kind, and I most cheerfully recommend them to public favor. Very respectfully,

L. A. CUTLER.

From Col. Thompson, late Thompson & Co.'s Express.

SPRINGFIELD, May 14, 1869.

My Dear Sir: In answer to your inquiry as to how our Society are pleased with the Sponge Cushions furnished by you, it gives me pleasure to say, every one of whom I have inquired pronounce them superior to anything of the kind they ever saw. As for myself, I am delighted with them, and would much prefer to have one article of hair at the same price. Yours very truly, J. M. THOMPSON, Chairman of Building Com. Church of the Unity.

Charles L. Fowle, Esq., Boston.

From the Superintendent of Metropolitan H. R. R. Co.

SUPERINTENDENT'S OFFICE, METROPOLITAN RAILROAD, Boston, May 19, 1869.

C. L. Fowle, Esq. Agent, &c.—Dear Sir: Last spring and summer we gave a trial to your Elastic Sponge Cushions on our Norfolk House and St. James line of cars. They have given perfect satisfaction, and we now are supplying all our other cars with them as fast as needed by renewal of new for old. Truly yours,

W. M. HENDRY, Gen. Superintendent.

The public are invited to call and examine Mattresses, Cushions, &c., at the Agency, 121 Summer street.

jy15-ewo6m

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NEW PLAN, just patented. For full description, &c., send stamp to

A. D. STRONG,
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THE friends of persons who have been restored from confirmed consumption by the use of this original preparation, and the grateful sufferers themselves, have by recommending it and acknowledging its wonderful efficacy, given the article a vast popularity in New England. The Cod Liver Oil is in this combination robbed of its unpleasant taste, and is rendered doubly efficacious in being coupled with the lime, which is itself a restorative principle, supplying that nature with just the same material as is required to heal and reform the lungs. Sold by druggists. A. B. WILBOR, No. 166 Cout Street, Boston, is the proprietor. Sold by all druggists. jan15-4t&t

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SLATER & CO.,
Hinsdale, N. H.

To the Breeders of Devon Cattle

OF AMERICA.

THE Third Volume of the AMERICAN DEVON HERD BOOK, will be published early in the year 1871, or as soon as a sufficient number of pedigrees are received to warrant its publication. The price of the Third Volume can be sent to the Editor, H. M. SESSIONS, South Wilbraham, Mass., any time during the year 1870, accompanied with the receiving fee of one dollar ($1.00,) for each pedigree sent; and written out fully, in the form of those in the First and Second Volumes.

The First and Second Volumes, published in 1863 and 1867, recorded over 1170 pedigrees from about 200 breeders.

In publishing of the Third Volume will be delayed for 200 pedigrees at least are received; no continue to send in your pedigrees after the time specified, for if received too late for the Third Volume they will be preserved for the Fourth Volume.

Information is also desired in regard to individual experience in breeding Devons, the sales, prices, imputations, products, qualities, deaths, &c.

The First and Second Volumes will be sent postpaid, on receipt of $2.50 each; First and Second Volumes bound together, $4.50. Days and Second Volumes bound together, $4.50.

Second Volumes bound together and Third when published can also furnish parties with Devons of various ages, from his own herds, or obtain them from other breeders.

HORACE M. SESSIONS.
South Wilbraham, Mass., Jan. 1st, 1870. jan15-1t

For Sale,

A YOUNG JERSEY COW and HEIFER CALF, cheap.
Apply to No. 6 Federal Street.
jan8-3t

Gregory's Seed Catalogue.

MY ANNUAL CATALOGUE, containing a list of many novelties, besides all the old and valuable of the garden; parts of which are of my own originating, with a choice selection of Flower Seeds, will be forwarded gratis to all. I warrant my seed shall prove as represented, or the money forwarded shall be cheerfully refunded. I warrant all money forwarded shall reach me. Send for a Catalogue.

JAMES J. H. GREGORY.
Marblehead, Mass.
jan8-12t&p

TO THE EDITOR OF PLOUGHMAN.—Esteemed Friend:—We have a positive cure for Consumption and all disorders of the Lungs and Throat—it cured the inventor and hundreds of acquaintances. We will give $1000 for a case it will not relieve, and will send a sample free to any sufferer who will address us. SAYRE & CO., 210 Broadway, New York. myl-1y*

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MARSH & CO.,
7 Tremont Row, Boston, Mass.
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DECORTICATED and of first quality, for sale, wholesale and retail, by

S. K. HERRICK,
—Dealer in—
FLOUR, GRIN, OATS AND MEAL,
Corner of Haverhill St. and Haymarket Square,
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Is the query of many. Please read the following letter from JAMES THOMPSON, Esq., the noted Stock Breeder to whom we have recently sold a fine Farm for $11,000.

NANTUCKET, Nov. 11, 1869.

GEO. H. CHAPIN, Esq.—*My Dear Sir:* Having succeeded in purchasing one of the finest Farms for Stock Raising in the State, through your Agency, I feel it a great pleasure to acknowledge the kindness and information you offered to me while in pursuit of it, and I heartily enjoin upon all who desire to sell or purchase real estate to apply to you for assistance.

JAMES THOMPSON.

Also, please read the following from a Vermont gentleman to whom we sold a Farm at Concord, Mass., for $10,500. We are continually selling just such bargains.

CONCORD, Dec. 1, 1869.

GEO. H. CHAPIN, Esq.—*Dear Sir:* We have become fully settled on the farm, and I want to inform you that the farm proves much better than you described—we have gathered our 200 bushels of apples this season, which is not a bearing year, and every other crop has been good. We would not take $15,000 for the place to-day; you may expect a large number of our Vermont friends at your office this winter, for Massachusetts is the place to farm.

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DON'T GO WEST—When you can buy a fine New England Farm, with prime buildings, a nice orchard and good pure water, in the healthiest spot in the Union, for less money than the buildings are worth. For proof see the FARM ADVERTIZER, 80 pages. The best location, owner's address and terms given. Sent to any address on receipt of 3 stamps. Or obtained free at the office of

NEW ENGLAND
Farm Agency,
30 & 31 Scollay's Building, Boston.
GEO. H. CHAPIN.
dec18-tf

Great Sacrifice OF Property in Nantucket!

As the owner has purchased a Farm in Randolph, on which he intends to locate, with his entire Thoroughbreds, as a Stock Farm, he offers his Homestead on North Water Street, one thousand feet from the Post Office and centre of the town, with all its surroundings, on one acre of land, as it now stands, with furniture; or will sell separate portions as may be desired.

A valuable Farm of forty acres all in perfect cultivation, with stock and tools, or in parts to suit. Price $5,500. Also, Dry Goods Store well stocked with goods, and with two of Aiken's Knitting Machines for manufacturing hosiery, and full run of five hundred hand knitters on footing and mittens, entire. These hand knitters on footing and mittens, entire. These chances are not sold for want of business, as a profit of $5,000 is derived per annum on store and machines, and the two stores and machinery for $3,500.

Address
JAMES THOMPSON,
Nantucket, Mass.

REFERENCE:—GEO. H. CHAPIN, Scollay's Building, Boston.

Farm For Sale.

I offer my Farm for sale, situated 2 miles from East Jaffrey, New Hampshire, consisting 130 acres first quality land, mutually divided, we l watered, mostly fenced with stone wall; a good lot of Fruit Trees; a good Sugar Lot, good building; Barn 40x50, with Shed; House 36x28, with shed, granary, &c. There are usually 14 tons of Hay on the farm, 1 pair of Cattle, 1 Cow; 1 4-cars old Colt (a Black Hawk,) stands 16 hands high and will weigh some 1000 lbs; 12 coarse wool Sheep, 1 Pig, 12 Hens; Farming Tools, Sap Pans and Buckets.

The above property offers a rare chance for a man wishing to purchase, as the town is free from debt and has some $5000 at interest, consequently taxes are very low; the Monadnock Railroad will run within two miles of said Farm in a few months.

Price of the above property $3200; $700 can lay on mortgage. Reference, ELIJAH SMITH.

R. T. COBURN.
Jaffrey, N. H., Dec. 27, 1869. jan8-3t

Farm for Sale.

I offer for sale my Farm situated 2½ miles west of Acton Centre, which contains about 100 acres of excellent land, well divided—one-third of which is pasture and wood, the remainder being a large into tillage, pasture and wood, the remainder being a large amount of wood and timber on the place. Said Farm is under a high state of cultivation, and is well fenced, well watered and good buildings. Cuts one hundred tons of hay, is near good markets, convenient to church and school. This property is offered at the low price of $10,000.

E. W. ALLEN,
Barre, Mass.
dec18 tf

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W. KIDDER of Norridgewock, Maine, offers for sale his large and highly improved farm containing of 250 acres of choice land, suitably divided into tillage, pasture and wood. Well fenced, well watered and good buildings. Cuts one hundred tons of hay, is near good markets, convenient to church and school. This property is offered at the low price of $10,000.
nov13-13t

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Farm of 23 acres, well divided. House 24x36, L 14x12, Barn, 20x40, all on good repair. Also, 18 good farms within 15 miles of Boston ranging from $1000 to 7000.

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To get an excellent Farm of twenty acres in North Chelsea, one-fourth of a mile of Chelsea Beach; it is all under good cultivation, plenty of manure in abundance; near steam and horse railroad. Terms $300 per acre. Very little down; Purchaser can have time to pay. For particulars enquire of GEO. A. TAFLEY, Abbs chemist, or of GEO H. CHAPIN, 20 & 21 Scollay's Building, Boston.
dec18-ew4t

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These Photographs are of Miss MARY WHITCOMB, Fitchburg, Mass., cured by Dr. Crairre of Scrofulous enlargement of the entire glands of the neck forming one immense tumor 24 inches around: threatening her life: perfectly well;

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Patients may rely on his skill and best endeavors.—*Christian Secretary.*

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jan8-1y

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Men's Overs	75
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Misses' "	60
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CEMENT and SOLING for Repairing and Tapping Boots. Also, Rubber Jewelry Repaired and Polished and made as good as new.

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100 TONS best quality, crop of 1869. Just received and for sale low, by

The Poet's Corner.

GEORGE PEABODY.

In Memoriam.

BY GEO. D. HERBERT.

From Albion's cliffs a last farewell is echoed o'er the seas!
On Portsmouth dock the British flag hangs half-mast in the breeze!
As vessels three, three nations' crews convoy across the main
The honored corse of one whose like may ne'er be seen again.

Men there have been in ev'ry age, whose sterling virtues claim,
In mem'ries of their fellow-men, almost undying fame;
But none so calmly, truly pure, so self-contain'd, self-made,
As he who now, "dame nature's debt," *his only one*, has paid.

In lordly halls, in lowly cots, in ev'ry home between,
One universal sorrow links the peasant with the queen;
While here, upon his native soil, where freedom kevels all,
On ev'ry side are hands outstretched to bear his sacred pall.

Thus broad Atlantic's stormy waves are bridged by conjoint grief;
And all men mourn, as one vast tribe, mourning a potent chief.
Aye! chief was he! whose tomb adorned neither by sword nor spear,
Can boast that glittering, priceless gem, the grateful orphan's tear.

No legacy of law he leaves; no treach'rous trustee's grasp
Holds treasure garner'd, idolized, e'en to the latest gasp.
The good he meant to do he did, or firmly saw it done;
Living through life a whole-soul'd man—*human in life alone.*

Wifeless alive, a countless host of widows mourn him dead;
And little lips lisp prayers that form "a nimbus" roun . his head.
Childless on earth, this lonely man has weeping round his grave
A myriad children to whom life his holy bounty gave.

Homeless and landless, while he breathed—for others his sole thought;
Dead, cold, and breathless, o'er his corse a magic change is wrought.
Brief home in ancient Abbey pile; long home in ev'ry breast—
Then in "God's acre" one small plot—a free-hold place of rest.

Rage gently, oh! ye wintry winds! be calm, oh! mighty deep!
And spare the ship upon whose deck these sacred ashes sleep.
Let her in safety speed her way, that 'neath his native sod
May rest "the cheerful giver, the beloved of his God."

—*N. Y. Weekly.*

Ladies' Department.

NELLANZA.

A FAIRY STORY.

Translated from the French, expressly for the little readers of the Ploughman.]

Once upon a time a daughter was born to a king and queen. They were so delighted at this, that they invited all the fairies of the neighborhood to come and rejoice with them over the event. Now, there was one fairy, of whom they did not know, and whom, consequently, they did not invite. But she came, nevertheless, and not in the most amiable frame of mind.

When she saw her sister fairies endow the child with beauty, happiness, health, sense and long life, she smiled grimly and said to herself; "Much good may it do her!"

The queen heard this remark and was very much troubled thereat, so she strove to make herself agreeable to the uninvited guest. But, to all her advances, the fairy only replied with a spiteful sniff; "So you thought you wouldn't ask *me* to come!"

I didn't know you were here" said the poor queen, almost crying, "or I would certainly have asked you to come."

"Well! well!" said the fairy, somewhat mollified at this, "I'll draw it a little milder than I originally intended. All will go well with the child, provided you keep from her the light of day until she is fifteen years old." After making this magnificent promise, the fairy vanished.

Consternation and tears ruled among the remaining guests for half an hour; at the end of that time, a council was held to determine what was best to do.

"I think she's a mean, stingy, old thing" cried one of the fairies; "I should send the police after her. Upon this, a table, standing at the end of the room, walked deliberately up to her, and boxed her ears, saying in a voice, marvellously like that of "the mean, stingy, old thing;" "Take that, Impudence!"

The king could hardly cry for laughing. "Boo, ha, ha, hoo!" cried he, "That beat-Planchette all hollow! even the Davenports are nothing to it! Why!"—exclaimed he warming up at the recollection—"I saw them once!——

"Jacob," interrupted his wife reprovingly, "at such a time as this"——

"I beg your pardon, my love," said he, "I forgot," and he buried his face in the flap of his dressing gown.

But what was to be done? crying was very comforting, but that couldn't do the princess any good.

By the advice of one of the fairies they decided upon the following course.

To place the princess in a windowless castle, whose entrance should be underground, and keep her there, provided with every luxury, and with the best companions and teachers available, until she should have reached the age of fifteen.

"That's all very well," said the king sceptically—" but by the time we got such a castle built the princess will almost have attained that age, and even"——

"Oh, hold your tongue, Jake, do!" cried the queen impatiently.

The fairies sneered at him, and placing their wands together, walked three times round a circle, singing some foreign song to the tune of "little Sally Waters." This impressive ceremony finished, they cr ed all together: "One; two; three!"

"Out goes she," said his majesty, thinking to make a rhyme and a j ke at the same time.

"Out" she *did* go: out of the window. "She" being baby, cradle and all.

To say that the king looked surprised, would be putting it, in as mild a form as possible. The queen was about to load him with reproaches, when the attention of both was attracted by a strange sight out of doors. There, in full sight of the window, rose a mighty, granite tower, firm and solid as though it had stood for years. It was one solid mass of stone, without the relief of a single door or window to be seen on its surface. Only an enterprising young man, with a bucket of paint, was seen already commencing to embellish its outside with a mysterious inscription in beautiful white letters!——"S. T. 1860 X."

"By gracious!" exclaimed his majesty, "real estate is rising here, indeed!" (In making this remark, the king used a verbal phenomenon, styled a pun. The intelligent reader will notice the play on the word *rising.*)

It would be waste of words to tell you that the princess was inside of this structure; you know that as well as I do: so I won't, but will economise my language, wishing to be as concise as possible in this most truthful history.

In this tower the princess grew up. All the rooms were furnished in the most elegant style. The carpets were of the thickest velvet, richly embroidered with gold thread. The furniture was of the most costly description. I have been told that the woodwork of the chairs and sofas was studded all over with diamonds as large as ostrich eggs, but, as I never saw a diamond larger than a teacup, I can hardly credit this statement; without saying something of the inconvenience. The walls were hung with the prettiest pictures. The bookcases were filled with the choicest story books, the most fascinating grammars, and the most bewitching geographies and arithmetics.

The only light in these apartments was shed by innumerable wax candles stuck in candlesticks of solid gold on all the walls.

The princess was very well pleased to live here; she had the most agreeable playfellows and teachers that ever lived, and she grew up to be so wise, so beautiful, and so good, that it was a pleasure to see her and listen to her

Now, there were only a few months lacking of her sixteenth birthday. (No, I don't mean her fifteenth, but her *sixteenth*: you must have sixteen birthdays to be fifteen years old.) So the queen concluded to have her pictures taken to send all round the world.

Now, let's change the scene.

In another kingdom the king had a son, oh! a nice young man; handsome, talented and witty. No one could shoot an arrow so true as he. No one could catch a straight ball, red hot from the bat, with his dexterity. His velocipede was the swiftest in every race. His voice was charming; a beautiful tenor; and when he sang those mournful old ballads, there was not a dry eye within scope of his voice.

There was one song in particular he used to sing with great effect, I've forgotten part of it, but it went something like this!—

"And if in the thingamy battle I fall,
A thingumbob's all that I crave:
Oh bury me deep in the what-you may-call
And plant thingumbob's o'er my grave."

Imagine this sung to the tune of fal, la, la, fal, la, la, fal, la, la; and you may form some idea of its beauty.

This gay and happy prince was engaged; engaged to be married to the daughter of a neighboring rich and powerful king.

This young lady had not much to boast of in the way of looks, I am sorry to say. In fact, you might have called her uncommonly common looking. Her hair was scarlet; her teeth were big and black; her mouth was wide; her nose flat; her eyes squinting, and her complexion looked as if she had sat with her face close to the fire chair. But the prince had never seen her; his father had promised him to her, on account of her father's wealth, and so he did not let this trouble him much.

All of a sudden, however, a change came over the spirit of this young man. When his friends tooted their horns under his window in the morning, inviting him to the chase, he would throw up the sash, jerk out his bootjack, angrily crying; "Stop your confounded clatter! I'm not going to-day." And he never did; and he never eat anything, and he never went into society. The king was much troubled at this; so he sent half a dozen doctors to go and prescribe for him. But the prince kicked them all out of the room, and they went away in high sudgeon.

All but one; he remained on the landing, and when all was still, he applied his eye to the keyhole of the prince's chamber door. After taking a good long peep, he repaired in silence to the king.

"Well," said his majesty, "what ails our prince?"

"It's an old sickness;" said the doctor, "he's spoony"

"He's what?"

"Spoony, your majesty; he's in love. I saw him sitting before the portrait of a beautiful young lady, weeping and wailing."

"That would make him a prince of wails: ha! ha! pretty good!" interrupted the king.

He paid no more attention to the learned discourse of the doctor, but every now and then he'd repeat to himself!—"prince of wails; pretty good! ha! ha!"

At the end of a week, the king tired of his joke, and bethought himself again of his son's condition. So he went and knocked at the prince's door, and was admitted.

The poor fellow had grown extremely thin and weak. His pocket handkerchief, soaked with tears, were hanging all around the room to dry. "Now, look here, young man!" commenced the king, when his eye suddenly fell on the portrait of our old friend, the princess.

"Oh! how bee-you-tiful!" exclaimed he.

"Isn't she, father?" responded his son, bursting into tears. "O Father, if I could only have the original for my wife!"

"You shall have her. Who is she?"

The prince explained that the person who gave him the portrait had merely told him that she was a princess in the kingdom of Soandso.

"You shall have her," repeated the king, "I'll send an ambassador at once to negotiate with her father, and, if possible, have her brought right along. I'll send another to King Wicheister to tell him that we decline his daughter, with thanks; decline her, she being an objective case, cannot be in the possessive."

The prince felt so grateful towards his father, that he essayed to laugh at his joke; but the effort was painful, and the result but a very faint "*hee!*"

King Wicheister's prepossessing daughter was naturally very much disgusted, when she found herself jilted. "Ain't I good enough for him?" cried she to the messenger. "Did you ever see such beautiful green eyes? or such an elegant wide mouth? or such fine large teeth?"

The ambassador, who began to tremble in his shoes for his own personal safety, assured her that he never had. "My master is strangely infatuated with the portrait of the princess Nellanza of Soandso," said he, "and swears he will marry her. But if I were monarch of all the world, I know on whose brow I would place the crown of my queen. And now, if your majesty"——

"Get along with you now, do!" said she, well pleased at this compliment; and the young man did get along, very fast, mighty glad to make his escape with a whole skin.

King Wicheister's daughter determined on revenge, and to that end set out for the kingdom of Soandso.

Arrived there she easily found the palace; and under the disguise of a servant maid, she sought and obtained employment there. She soon got a position where she saw very little of the king and queen. Occasionally the king would come into the kitchen to light his pipe, and at such a time the queen would be down very soon after on some pretext or other: but between you and me, I think she came down to see that he behaved himself among the servants, for she had seen him once return from the kitchen with one of his cheeks daubed with flour.

Well, it was on an occasion of this kind that King Wicheister's daughter first saw her rival's parents. She noticed that they both looked worn and distressed. On inquiring the reason of her fellow servants, she learned they were sorely troubled on their daughter's account.

"Where is she?"

They showed her the round, windowless tower where the princess was confined, and related her history. "She is sick now," they said, "and no one can tell what ails her. They've tried all sorts of doctors, but none can find what the matter is."

Upon hearing this, our scarlet haired beauty was very much pleased, but she assumed an expression of pity and said:—"I understand something of medicine, perhaps I might cure her."

This soon reached the ears of the queen, and the new servant girl was invited to go with her to the princess. This was just what she wanted, and accordingly she went with the queen down cellar underneath the palace. A large flat stone in the floor flew up on touching a spring, exposing a flight of marble steps, leading down, and disappearing around a corner. The queen and her companion descended these steps and the stone closed after them with a bang. They made their way through a subterranean passage, lighted here and there with candles, and at last commenced ascending the stairs that led up into the tower.

On entering the princess Nellanza's room, the false servant gave a short cry, and put her hand to her eyes. The brilliant light of the many wax candles seemed to her fully as powerful as that of the sun.

"Hush!" said the queen, "she is sleeping."

They crept on tiptoe to a bed of solid silver, on which the princess lay. And now, for the first time, King Wicheister's daughter saw the person who had cut her out.

There slept as beautiful a maiden as ever breathed. Her pretty brown hair fell around her head in little ringlets. The long lashes of her sleeping eyes lay upon cheeks full and round, but marble white. Her cunning mouth, (to use an original comparison) looked like an opening red rose. He. hands were the weetest little paws that ever were seen. But, alas! looked said; poor thing, very sad!

"I'll not wake her now," said the queen, "but you can stay here, and examine her when she wakes," saying which, she left the room.

You may think it very queer, that the queen should leave this strange female alone in the room with her daughter; but I've no doubt it was all owing to the queen's regard for me; as it makes it so much easier to tell the story.

Well, after the queen was gone, the disguised princess (by the way, I ought to tell you her name; it was Caroline Maria,) went prying all round the room like a regular sneak. She opened all the drawers and tumbled things in the most disorderly manner. She picked out the largest jewels from the furniture, and hid them, intending to take them away with her at some future day.

Suddenly she ducked down behind a huge easy chair, and remained silent, watching Nellanza, who was just waking up. She watched her noiselessly; pricking her ears to catch the least sound.

Nellanza rose with a heavy sigh. "OPrince, Prince," she murmured, "shall I never see you, and speak with you except in my dreams?" And rising from her couch, she seated herself in the chair, behind which crouched Caroline Maria, and drawing something from her bosom, she gazed at it long and earnestly. Somewhat after the manner in which your elder sister, Anna Jane, or Eliza Ann, gazes at the photograph in the album, of that young man who comes so often to the house to see her, and who pretends to be so amazingly fond of you; and whom you don't like, because whenever he comes, mamma smuggles you off to bed at the most unreasonably early time of evening.

Caroline Maria arose stealthily, and gazed over the poor, unconscious Nellanza's shoulder. Imagine her feelings on seeing a beautiful miniature portrait of her once intended, the Prince Georgius!

She made an exclamation, so that Nellanza turned around startled; but she was by no means reassured by the countenance gleaming down on her.

Caroline Maria explained that she had just that moment entered the room, and told her that she had come to cure her of her sickness.

It was arranged that the new physician should pass several days with the princess, in order thoroughly to study her case. During this time, she was the butt of all the jokes played by the young lady companions; but Nellanza always managed to say something in her favor. For instance; one pert miss compared Caroline Maria's eyes to lizards; they were so green, but the princess said: "Nay, they are beautiful as emeralds." Another, speaking of her teeth, said her mouth looked like a coal mine. "Nay, said the princess, "they remind me of handsome polished ebony." Always trying to make herself agreeable, and still wishing to be truthful.

At the end of a few days, the new physician was called into the presence of the king and queen.

"Your majesties," said she, "your daughter is in love."

"In love?" exclaimed they.

"Yes, and in love with the picture of a real nice young man; Prince Georgius."

"Do you know him?" asked the queen.

"Oh yes."

"Is he rich?"

"Yes, indeed!"

"Young?"

"Yes."

"Handsome?"

"Yes."

"Well," said the queen, "then I see no objection to her marrying him, as soon as she is fifteen. You see, that picture was brought to us sometime ago by a messenger from Prince Georgius, who assured us his master was pining away, all for love of our princess of whom he received a picture sometime ago. So, if these two young people please each other, I consent to their marrying, as soon as Nellanza is fifteen. Before that time, it is out of the question."

"Wait a minute, my dear," said the king. "You say this young man is rich, young and handsome. Now, let me see; there was another trifling thing I wished to assure myself about:—Let me see—Is he—? What in the world was it now?"—and the king pondered for a time. "Oh! I've got it! Has the prince a good moral character?"

"Oh! yes, *indeed!*" exclaimed Caroline Maria, with a grim smile.

"Then," said he, "I've no objection to giving the apple of my eye, to make a pair; or, rather, to make the pair one; provided they haven't already won each other."

"The jovial old king! he would always have his joke; although it was not always of the most brilliant description."

Perhaps you think it unfair in me to blame the king for the poverty of his wit, and think I myself am to blame. But I assure you that I give the jokes just as he made them, and, good or bad, am not responsible for them.

"May it please your majesties," said Caroline Maria, "I think it dangerous to delay this marriage. I know you are fearful of trusting your daughter out of the tower; but I believe all will go well if you follow my advice. Let the princess be placed at night with me in a thoroughly darkened carriage, and, accompanied by as splendid a retinue as you please, let us journey to this prince".

At this moment a young man hastily entered the room.

"May it please your majesties," said he, speaking very fast, "my master, Prince Georgius, swears he cannot wait any longer. The king also entreats you to have mercy on his son. Behold this demijohn," and he produced a large one from beneath his cloak; "it is filled with the king's tears which he has shed on his son's account, and which he offers you as testimony of his grief and sincerity."

Nellanza's father was much touched at this generous gift, and he placed it on the window-sill, where it could be easily accidentally tipped into the street; for he hardly knew what else to do with it.

"Go," said he, much moved; "go, tell your master the princess shall start to-morrow." The messenger bowed low, and strode from the room backwards, sweeping the floor with the feather in his cap at each step.

"Oh! see our good, affectionate Caroline Maria," said the queen. "See, she is crying." Caroline Maria had her face in her handkerchief; had had it there from the moment the ambassador entered, but she was not crying.

The next day the Princess Nellanza was decked out in the most gorgeous array; a crown of gold on her head, a necklace of diamonds and pearls around her throat. Oh, she was a sight to look at!

So was the other princess, Caroline Maria; she was provided with almost equally beautiful flummery, by the kind king and queen.

Well, at night, these two got into a coach without a window in it, and, consequently, as dark as Egypt, to journey together to Prince Georgius.

Their coach was preceded by horsemen in beautiful uniforms, bearing banners and spears; and by musicians playing the most exquisite music. Behind them came numerous elegant coaches containing friends of the princess, and drawn by milk white horses, that is, not quite white, you know, but having a delicate pearl like blueish tinge, as was also Nellanza's.

They had travelled a day or two in this wise, and were almost at their journey's end, when Caroline Maria, who had not spoken a word that day, suddenly arose and stood upright. And she tore the crown from Nellanza's head and placed it on her own.

"What is the matter?" cried the princess, for she could not realize in the dark what had been done.

Caroline Maria made no reply but, drawing a wicked looking knife from her dress, she thrust it upward through the roof of the coach.

A wild, tremendous "Ow!!!" was heard from the coachman, who was sitting on top, and he retired from his seat with great precipitation.

The glare of midday poured down into the coach, and Nellanza, transformed into a white fawn, sprang from the vehicle, and rushing into the woods at the roadside, disappeared from the sight of her awestricken attendants.

Of course everything was thrown into great confusion at this, and, after the usual fashion, the men commenced to swear and the women to cry. "What a shame," said these last, "that the dear little thing should meet with such a cruel fate!"

"Excuse me, ladies," said Caroline Maria, "would n't it be more appropriate to call her now a little deer thing?" To this no other answer was given than glances of indignation.

The upshot of the matter was, that the whole procession wheeled round, and wended its way back to Soandso to report to the king and queen the sad intelligence of their daughter's loss.

All but Princess Caroline Maria, she made herself look as fine as she could with her stolen jewels, and set out afoot the other way.

She had been walking about an hour and a half when she heard the sound of approaching music. In a little while, she saw the head of a splendid gaudy procession of horsemen and soldiers coming towards her. She immediately assumed as majestic a bearing as she could, and strutted on grandly toward them.

The squad of policemen who are always in the van of a procession, seeing her so richly clad, and thinking her some person of distinction saluted her respectfully, instead of saying as usual, "Get out of the way!"

An officer among the soldiers noticed her with considerable surprise, and asked her where she was going.

"I am the Princess Nellanza," said she. "I was coming to marry Prince Georgius, when the earth suddenly opened and swallowed up my escort, coaches, soldiers and all, leaving me all alone to finish my journey afoot."

The procession came to a halt. The officers spoke among themselves. They were evidently talking about her, and I leave you to imagine her delight on overhearing them say something now and then about "the prince's bad taste."

"Madame," said one of them finally, "we are escorting their royal highnesses, the king and the prince, who are *en route* to meet the Princess Nellanza. Since you are she, our object is attained and I will send a courier down the line to notify their majesties."

When Georgius heard the news of the arrival of his beloved, he was nearly beside himself for joy. He leaped from his carriage and rushed like an arrow to meet her, his father full using him as well as he could, his sword very much interfering with his legs, and puffing and shouting, "Not-so-fast, my-son; have some regard-for appearance,-for dignity, my boy, for dig—"

But it was of no use. Georgius paid him no heed; he kept on till he reached the princess, said, "Swindled, by Jove!" and fainted away.

The king, on coming up, was very indignant on finding how shamefully the princess lacked of the beauty of her portrait, and he immediately launched a storm of abuse on her head, to which she responded with as good as he sent, for she was a finished vixen.

The prince on recovering, said: "Father, I shall not go home again. I trust you will revenge me," and he got up and disappeared in the forest. All their attempts to follow him were unavailing, and they were compelled to return home without him, taking the false princess with them.

"Lock her up in a stone cell!" said the king, "don't let her get near any wood with her hair, or she will set us all afire; she looks red-dy enough to do it."

One young man besides the prince did not return. He sought him through the woods, he called his name, but received no answer, and managed thoroughly to lose himself. But this troubled him little, all his anxiety was on the prince's account.

Evening had already set in, and it was getting dark very fast, when he caught sight of him just preparing to hang himself from a tree.

"I wouldn't do that," said he coolly, "on account of King Wicheister's daughter."